

Unionists lead Salvador May Day march of 60,000



Militant/Maura Rodriguez

Delegation from the United States in May Day march in El Salvador. Banner calls for solidarity with the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), no more dollars for repression.

BY MAURA RODRIGUEZ

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — On April 24 I flew into Comalapa Airport, just outside San Salvador, after a nine-year absence from the country where I was born. The hills and volcanoes and splendid weather were all the same. But El Salvador is different.

The struggle of workers and peasants against military repression and for a decent life has deepened. Violence by the government and death squads is far worse.

Nine years ago, I would have flown into

Ilopango Airport. Today it is an air force base that supplied the contras in Nicaragua. The U.S.-backed Salvadoran regime conducts daily aerial bombings of the Salvadoran countryside from this base. On the road from Comalapa, even the traffic cops carry automatic weapons, and military checkpoints are strung out from there to the capital.

I was part of a delegation of 29 people from the United States — including nurses, students, trade unionists, and solidarity activists — invited by the National Union of

Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) for a two-week fact-finding tour. The federation represents most of the unionized workers in the country.

When I arrived, the UNTS and other groups were preparing for a big May Day march and rally. One of the activities leading up to May Day was "A Song for Peace with Sovereignty and Independence in El Salvador," a popular music festival held April 27-30.

Organized by the Artists and Cultural
Continued on Page 2

Behind Nicaraguan construction strike

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A substantial fall in workers' purchasing power due to continuing inflation has produced growing pressure for wage increases here. Several strikes have occurred, organized by opponents of the Sandinista government who have sought to capitalize on the situation to discredit the government.

Wages have not gone up since mid-February, when the government last set a general pay raise. Since then, many prices have tripled. Wages of all private and state employees are regulated by a government-set pay scale. According to Dámaso Vargas, a leader of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), the CST has started talks with the government aimed at securing a general wage increase. The CST is also pressing to restore a system of bonus payments for workers who exceed production norms.

Some 1,300 mechanics and drivers at a state-owned bus company, who are organized by the CST, are demanding an immediate 100 percent pay increase. Similar demands are being raised in other workplaces.

The CST represents the majority of industrial, transport, and construction workers. Its stand is that the demands for higher wages and other union demands should be pursued through talks with the government and not by strike action. The union federation argues that because strikes reduce production, they mean fewer resources available to meet the needs of the Nicaraguan people.

The CST urges workers instead to keep working, raise productivity and output, and negotiate their grievances and demands. And, in fact, despite the fall in real wages, there have been few strike actions.

The strikes that have occurred recently have involved relatively better-paid sectors of the working class. These include the

building trades workers, auto mechanics, and waiters in the higher-priced bars and restaurants.

The most important was a walkout by some construction workers in response to government changes in productivity norms that meant a substantial cut in their pay. The building trades workers who struck were organized by the General Workers Confederation-Independent (CGTi).

In February the Ministry of Labor decreed that construction workers would be paid wages comparable to those of other industrial workers. Previously, many construction workers had earned substantially higher wages than many other workers received. The Ministry of Construction also raised the production quotas that building trades workers have to meet to earn their daily wage.

Officials of the CGTi called a strike February 29, demanding an immediate 200 percent pay hike and the elimination of government wage controls. Construction workers organized by the CST did not strike.

Although only a minority of construction workers joined the strike, it had a big impact on many important projects. The CGTi claimed that several thousand of the approximately 12,000 organized construction workers in the country went on strike. CST leader Vargas told the *Militant* that of the 3,000 workers at major government-sponsored construction sites, some 600 walked off the job.

The CGTi officials rejected calls to end the strike and then negotiate. They insisted on the immediate acceptance of all their demands, and tried to turn the strike into as big a confrontation with the government as possible.

The CGTi is led by the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, which functions in an alliance with other antigovernment parties, including those representing the interests of capi-

talists and landlords. These opposition groups rallied behind the strike and attempted to provoke incidents they could use to justify claims of "Sandinista repression" against workers.

When the strike began, the CST and government officials appealed to the CGTi members to return to their jobs. Some strikers reportedly did so.

Three days after the strike began, the
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Socialists open Ohio ballot drive

CLEVELAND — In the aftermath of the stock market crash, the demand being raised by the Socialist Workers Party candidates to shorten the workweek to 30 hours without a cut in pay is striking a receptive chord among working people.

This was the consensus of more than two dozen supporters of the SWP presidential ticket of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells after a day of campaigning in Cleveland, Lorain, and Akron, Ohio.

They gathered at the Socialist Workers campaign headquarters here on the evening of May 14 to hear a talk by Norton Sandler, circulation director of the *Militant*. He spoke on the topic "Six Months After the Stock Market Crash: What Lies Ahead for Working People?" Sandler participated in the day's mobilization, which kicked off a three-week petitioning drive to get the Socialist Workers Party's standard-bearers on the Ohio state ballot. Campaign supporters here are planning to collect as close to 10,000 signatures as possible — double the 5,000 required.

After the first day, 1,200 had already signed the SWP petition. Supporters also sold 14 subscriptions to the *Militant* and five to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. Ninety individual copies

Support builds for June 11 protests

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — Across the country, buses and trains are being reserved to bring opponents of U.S. military intervention and nuclear weapons to New York City and San Francisco on Saturday, June 11.

A broad coalition of antiwar forces has called for tens of thousands to gather in those cities for marches and rallies coinciding with the opening of the United Nations Third Special Session on Disarmament.

In New York, protesters will assemble at the UN at 9 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. the march to Central Park will begin, where the rally will be held. Leslie Cagan, national coordinator of the SSD-III National Coalition, which is building the actions, told the *Militant* that among those who have agreed to speak so far are Thomas Gumbleton, Roman Catholic bishop from Detroit; Edward Said, a scholar who is a member of the Palestine National Council; and Digna Sanchez, a prominent activist in the fight for the rights of Puerto Ricans.

In San Francisco, the marchers will assemble at UN Plaza at 11:00 a.m., and march at noon to a rally in Union Square in the heart of the downtown area. A Japanese survivor of the U.S. nuclear bombing of Hiroshima will carry a torch at the head of the march.

Speakers at the rally will include Mario Obledo, national cochair of the Rainbow Coalition, and former Berkeley, California, mayor Gus Newport.

The marches have won a broad range of sponsors, including International Association of Machinists President William Winpisinger, Coretta Scott King, SANE/Freeze, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), National Network of Indochina Activists, and Palestine Solidarity Committee. Stanley Hill, executive director of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; Jan Pierce of the Communications Workers of America;
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of the two publications were sold.

A good chunk of the campaigning was done from literature tables featuring Pathfinder books and pamphlets and the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

Campaigners also circulated petitions demanding that charges against Mark Curtis, a Des Moines, Iowa, political activist, be dropped.

David Marshall, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Ohio, and a steelworker at the LTV mill here, campaigned in East Cleveland, a mostly Black area. "Unemployment among Black youth is well over 30 percent," Marshall said. "Because of this, young people were especially interested in the SWP program for jobs."

The East Cleveland team sold two subscriptions and 16 individual copies of the *Militant* and collected 105 signatures.

"Nearly everyone we spoke with believes there is something fundamentally wrong with the economy," said Joan Radin, who was part of a team in Akron that sold seven *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions and collected over 200 signatures.

Margi Husk and Mohammed Oliver campaigned in a Latino area of Lorain near the big USX steel mill. "To get a discus-

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60,000 march, rally May 1 in El Salvador

Continued from front page

Workers Association in conjunction with the University of El Salvador, the festival included concerts in several cities, including San Salvador.

The eight-hour concert at the plaza in front of the national cathedral, attended by more than 20,000 people, was the high point. Artists who participated in the festival included Holly Near, Thiago de Mello and Amazon, and The Human Condition from the United States, and groups from Venezuela, Costa Rica, Mexico, Argentina, and El Salvador.

The night before the May Day action, and a day after the UNTS national headquarters was bombed, some of us stayed at the union office overnight to help prevent further attacks.

The nine of us who stayed took turns watching the office. After midnight, as welders and grinders busily repaired the blown-out front door, we painted banners for the next day's march.

About 60,000 people took to the streets May 1. They marched through San Salvador, carrying banners and flags.

The industrial unions made up the lead contingent, followed by human rights organizations, participants from other countries, and peasants. There were contingents from union federations that had never participated in a May Day march before.

The largest contingent, perhaps 40,000 strong, was made up of peasants from the countryside. Crammed into overcrowded buses, they had had to pass through military checkpoints to enter the city. Many never got through. "We wanted to go to San Salvador to celebrate our day — the workers' day," a woman from Usulután told me a week later, "but the soldiers stopped us at the Lempa River."

All along the march route and through the poor neighborhoods of San Salvador, as an air force helicopter gunship hovered menacingly overhead, people came to their doors and windows. Many gave donations to help finance the march, while trying to avoid being observed doing so.

Marchers fanned out to put up UNTS posters proclaiming, "With the unity in struggle of the workers, we will conquer our just demands. Long live May Day."

At Plaza Libertad, workers had just erected a makeshift stage. Another gunship hovered overhead, in an effort to drown out the rally.

"Compañeros, let us show the air force that we are not afraid," UNTS executive committee member Febe Velásquez declared, and the crowd answered with loud and militant chants.

Among the speakers were a representative of the executive committee, a member of our delegation, and Swiss, Venezuelan, and Mexican guests.

Two of the most warmly received speak-

ers were Rubén Zamora of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, and Mario Pérez of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) of Nicaragua. Pérez led the participants in chanting, "As Nicaragua won, El Salvador will win."

Government Crisis

The march threw the Salvadoran government's growing difficulties and the political polarization in the country into bold relief.

When we arrived, municipal elections were being held in war zones where they couldn't be held when local and National Assembly elections took place in the country in March. National television reported results for San Fernando, a town of several hundred. The candidate of ARENA, the extreme right-wing party, won by 3 to 0. ARENA received the most votes in the March elections.

The newly elected National Assembly was to be seated May 2. A dispute between the two parties of the ruling classes — ARENA and the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) — over the seating of one delegate postponed the convening of the assembly.

Washington backs the government now headed by PDC leader President José Napoleón Duarte. U.S. aid to the Salvadoran regime has now topped \$3 billion. For fiscal 1987, U.S. aid was \$608 million, more than the entire Salvadoran national budget.

For the last several years, Washington has looked to the PDC to win some popular support for the fight against the rebel forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), painting the PDC as the "middle of the road, democratic" alternative to the "extreme right and left."

Duarte's "democracy"

During our visit we got a taste of Duarte's "democracy."

While visiting a peasant cooperative called Tenepechin in Morazán Province, long an FMLN stronghold, we witnessed the government's artillery shelling of the neighboring community of Torola. The cooperative members also took us to a makeshift grave of a peasant who was tortured and killed in mid-April by the armed forces.

In Santa Ana we saw the military attack a peaceful march by farmers and their families, who were demanding credit so they could plant this season.

We met a 12-year-old girl from El Mario in Usulután who lost a leg in a land mine explosion. She told us that the mine was planted by the military after an operation in the area. A peasant leader from the province of San Miguel told us of two children killed and two injured in another mine explosion following armed forces maneuvers in his community.



Militant/Maura Rodríguez

May Day rally in El Salvador drew broad labor and peasant participation

The secretary of statistics for the non-governmental Human Rights Commission confirmed that more than 90 percent of mine casualties follow government military operations in civilian areas.

Starving out the peasants

The government forbids the sending of food and medicine to FMLN-controlled and disputed zones — most of the Salvadoran countryside. This policy of starving the rural population — along with the bombings, disappearances, and forced removals by the military — is especially cruel in light of the drought that is already bringing devastation to tens of thousands of peasants.

In San Salvador I was struck by the sub-human standard of living of the vast majority of people. Unemployment and underemployment stand at 80 percent, according to the UNTS. A November 1987 U.S. congressional report notes that the average per capita income has dropped 38 percent since 1980.

The general secretary of the National Association of Rural Workers told us that since January of this year, the price of a pound of beans — a staple in the Salvadoran diet — has risen from around 24 cents to between 80 cents and \$1. By comparison, average wages for a rural day laborer on a coffee plantation — seasonal work for only two months a year — is \$1.60 per day.

Workers whose homes have electricity and running water spend more than 50 percent of family income, on average, on rent. Others live in cardboard or tin hovels.

There are constant attacks on the unions. The Ministry of Labor won't recognize

newly organized unions and tries to strip recognized ones of legal status. The bosses carry out mass firings, including of legally elected union executive boards. They conduct lockouts and unilaterally suspend wage payments.

The executive board of the Treasury Workers Union, for example, estimates that through illegal wage suspensions, treasury officials have pocketed more than \$11 million.

The bosses use the CIA-funded American Institute for Free Labor Development to establish company unions and break contracts.

On May 2, a high command general accused the UNTS in the daily press of being a front group for the rebels, effectively declaring open season on the trade unions.

Three of us were staying at the home of an official of the Telephone Workers Union. He was nearly captured on May 6 by heavily armed men. Our presence helped protect him, at least for a few days.

On two occasions, while meeting with the Human Rights Commission and with the Social Security Workers Union (STISS), we saw gray and white four-wheel drive vehicles with polarized glass parked nearby. The general secretary of STISS explained to us that they are death squad vehicles, which are always parked near union or movement offices.

Witnesses to disappearances or assassinations always tell the same story: heavily armed men in civilian dress driving these vehicles capture a unionist, who later turns up in the hands of the armed forces, tortured or killed.

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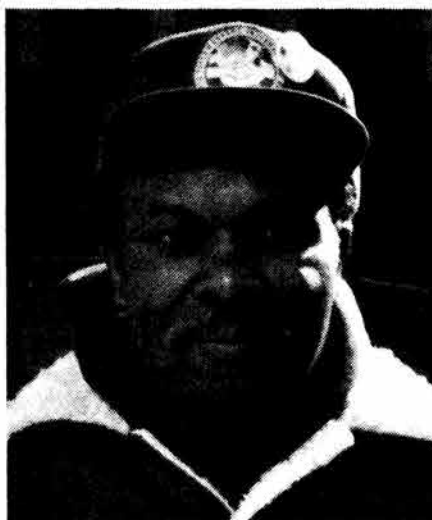
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Framed-up activist gains workers' support

City Human Rights Commission in Des Moines covers for cop brutality

BY BOB MILLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "Mark Curtis faces 25 years in prison," the Rochester *Post-Bulletin* reported May 11. "But not, he says, because he tried to rape a woman, assault a police officer, or commit a burglary, as he is charged."

The article in this southern Minnesota newspaper continued, "Rather, he said, it is because he is a political activist who has long fought for the rights of minorities and spoken out against the war in Central America. That's what he told Rochester union workers."

Curtis, the victim of Des Moines police frame-up charges and a brutal beating by the cops, visited Rochester May 9 to speak to members of United Auto Workers Local 2125. Thomas Strain and Joe Milkanin, president and vice-president of the local, had already sent messages to the Des Moines police chief William Moulder demanding that all charges against Curtis be dropped.

Curtis' presentation to the Rochester unionists was well received. Many related other examples of police frame-ups and beatings, including experiences during a recent strike, which was defeated.

Support from former Hormel strikers

As part of the international campaign to defend Curtis, the Mark Curtis Defense Committee has organized a speaking tour for him throughout North America. From Rochester, Curtis went to Austin, Minnesota, to speak to the United Support Group.

The Support Group, which organizes aid for hundreds of meat-packers who lost their jobs during the year-long strike against Geo. A. Hormel Co., invited Curtis to speak about his case. Curtis, who is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 431 and works at the Swift packinghouse in Des Moines, had visited Austin several times during the Hormel strike.

After Curtis' talk, several people said that the Austin police must be blood brothers of the Des Moines police. John Winkels, a veteran of union battles in Austin in the 1930s, described how the cops framed up union and political activists then. He said working people throughout the country should support Mark's defense.

Vickie Guyette, a leader of the Support Group, wrote to police chief Moulder the next day. "After personally witnessing the harassment, violence, and brutality perpetrated by the Austin police," she said, "I am



Mark Curtis (left), political and union activist who was beaten and framed up by Des Moines cops, appeared May 12 before city's Human Rights Commission. Commission majority said

police brutality is out of its jurisdiction. "We do know these beatings occur," conceded commission chairman Alfredo Alvarez.

writing in protest of the charges brought against Mark Curtis and urge you to drop all charges against him."

On May 18 Curtis spoke to officials and stewards of Teamsters Local 387 in Des Moines. Everyone present signed the petition demanding all charges against him be dropped and the investigation and prosecution of the police who beat Curtis.

As a member of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador in Birmingham, Alabama, in the early 1980s, Curtis was spied on by the FBI. This was part of the FBI's massive spy and harassment campaign against that organization.

Curtis was also the national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance and is a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

Human Rights Commission hearing

On May 12 Curtis spoke before the Des Moines Human Rights Commission. He urged the commission to denounce the police frame-up and investigate the police beating.

Curtis' lawyer had earlier received a letter from the Des Moines police chief and signed by Capt. Bill McCarthy that said the internal investigation of the police beating is complete.

The report asserted, "Your client was injured after attacking officers in the jail while they were confiscating his clothing."

The commission members, however, told Curtis his complaint is outside its juris-

diction. They said it would be a conflict of interest for the commission to investigate another city department.

Curtis responded, "How can we have a human rights commission if they don't have any jurisdiction" over the police? Curtis called the police "the biggest human rights violator in the city."

Carlos Jayne, a member of the commission, red-baited Curtis. He told the *Des Moines Register* that Curtis' information "is presented in such a way that if you don't stand behind him you're against human rights. This is a militant Marxist group and it is not unusual for them to use these kinds of tactics."

Commission chairman Alfredo Alvarez, however, conceded that "in all fairness to the other side, we do know these beatings occur." He added that Curtis had a valid point in questioning the effectiveness of the commission if it is not allowed to investigate complaints against the police.

Des Moines' Channel 5 TV news and WHO radio covered Curtis taking his case to the commission. Channel 5 reported that Curtis will "continue his fight for justice" by going to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is also asking supporters to attend the Des Moines City Council meeting at 7 p.m. on May 23. He will be asking the council to denounce the frame-up against him and investigate the police beating.

New endorsers

Among the new endorsers of the defense effort are the Freedom Socialist Party;

Mike Henry, director of Latin America Human Rights Advocacy Center, Iowa City, Iowa; Bruce Nestor, a student activist at the University of Iowa and a leader of the Progressive Student Network; M. Brendan Conlon, a Catholic nun who has just returned from eight months in Nicaragua with Witness for Peace; Daniel Cobos, an air force sergeant who refused to fly spy missions over Nicaragua; and Eldora Spiegelberg, a leader of the Womens International League for Peace and Freedom in St. Louis.

The committee reports that more than \$3,000 has been received in the last two weeks for the defense effort. The committee has issued an urgent appeal for funds.

The trial date for the felony charges against Curtis is July 6. The misdemeanor charges of assaulting police will be heard July 18. Curtis' legal defense is being handled by the prominent criminal defense law firm of William Kutmus and Mark Pennington.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is asking that messages be sent to the Des Moines police demanding that the charges be dropped and the beating of Curtis by the cops be investigated, with those responsible being prosecuted. Petitions and a fact sheet are available from the committee.

Messages should be addressed to Chief of Police William Moulder, 25 E. 1st St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Copies of messages and petitions, along with urgently needed financial contributions, should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1630.

Drive opens to raise funds in Curtis fight for justice

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has issued an urgent appeal for funds. In the coming weeks, \$45,000 will be needed.

In addition to the money required to produce and distribute literature on the police attempt to frame up this young political activist, large amounts will be needed to meet legal expenses leading up to the trials in July. And there will be travel and other expenses.

Local supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee are already stepping up public efforts to reach out and raise the needed funds. In Morgantown, West Virginia, six well-known activists signed an appeal to people in northern West Virginia and southern Pennsylvania to support the defense effort.

The signers included Prof. F.L. Hord of West Virginia University; Ray Bauer, former president of the student administration at WVU; and Cindy Williams, an activist in the Latin America Solidarity Project.

Fund-raising will fit in naturally with the range of other activities being carried out by opponents of the frame-up. Unionists will distribute petitions denouncing the actions of the Des Moines, Iowa, cops and will line up pledges and donations from the many coworkers who

sign up. While distributing literature on the case, and talking to students, farmers, unionists, antiwar activists, Black rights fighters, religious activists, and others about sending telegrams of protest to the Des Moines cops, supporters will also be asking for donations.

Meetings for Mark Curtis and other spokespeople will also be opportunities to win significant contributions.

As the letter from the Morgantown activists points out, "The old labor adage 'an injury to one is an injury to all' is a simple but powerful message we must always be ready to rally around, and now is the time to do it once again — around the case of Mark Curtis."

Enclosed is \$250 — \$100 — \$50 — \$10 — other — to help defray the expenses of the defense of Mark Curtis.

Please add my name as an endorser of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Name _____

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Phone _____

Union or other organization or title _____

Clip and mail to Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

Nearly 300 Canadian unionists urge Iowa cops to drop false charges

BY PAUL KOURI

VANCOUVER, Canada — Out of close to 3,000 participants in the Canadian Labor Congress here, 285 signed petitions to defend Mark Curtis. Curtis was beaten by cops and framed up because of his union and political activity.

At least 35 delegates from the United Food and Commercial Workers, the union Curtis belongs to, signed petitions. Others who signed at the May 9-15 gathering included Canadian Labor Congress Executive Vice-president Dick Martin; Alberta Federation of Labor President Dave Werlin; British Columbia Federation of Labor President Ken Georgetti; Guy Cousineau, general secretary of the Quebec Federation of Labor-Montreal Central Labor Council; Canadian Auto Workers President Robert White; Canadian Farmworkers President Sarwan Boal; Herman Stewart, business manager of the Ontario International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; and International Woodworkers of America — Canada President Jack Munro.

Others who signed are: Bill Fowler, president of the Victoria local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers; Peter Mahlangu, representative in Canada of the South African Congress of Trade Unions;

Geffrey Mangida of the National Union of Miners of South Africa; Osvaldo Munez, vice-president of the United Electrical Workers in Quebec; and Marianne Roy, labor secretary of the Quebec Communist Party.

Coming in our next issue . . .

The struggle for a democratic, secular Palestine

The concluding article in the eight-part series by Fred Feldman — "Palestine and the Arabs' fight for liberation" — will describe what the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza today are fighting for. It tells how this helps advance the struggle of workers and farmers throughout all of Palestine to get rid of the Israeli regime.

Burkina Faso regime tries to erase legacy of Sankara-led gov't

BY SAM MANUEL

Despite its release of a group of political opponents arrested last December, the new regime in the West African country of Burkina Faso continues its campaign against the legacy of the revolutionary government headed by the late president Thomas Sankara. According to one report from the capital, Ouagadougou, even the selling of pictures of the slain revolutionary leader has been banned.

The government headed by Sankara came to power through a popular democratic revolution in 1983. It won widespread support within the population for carrying out social programs in the interests of peasants and workers.

Sankara and 12 of his aides were killed during an Oct. 15, 1987, military coup carried out by soldiers loyal to then minister of state and justice Capt. Blaise Compaoré. The new regime calls itself the Popular Front.

The campaign to destroy Sankara's legacy has included the detention, interrogation, and torture of former members of the revolutionary government and members of the late president's family.

Among those released in March were six key members of the Sankara-led government, including former information and foreign minister Basile Guissou and former higher education minister Valère Somé.

According to a report by the BBC in London former French senator Cecile Goddet has charged that Guissou and Somé, along with others, were beaten, doused with freezing water, and then forced to sleep in wet clothing.

Just one week before their release, Compaoré, now president, told reporters in Ouagadougou that some leaders of the Sankara-led National Council of the Revolution (CNR) would be tried. They were among those detained in December.

Though it pledged to maintain many of the gains made under the Sankara-led government, the "Action Program" of the Popular Front announced March 18 struck another blow at the capacity for organiza-

tion and mobilization of the workers and peasants of the country. Chief among these was the dissolution of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) and their replacement with "Revolutionary Committees."

Building the CDRs was seen as a critical task by the CNR government. In describing the role of the CDRs, the revolutionary government explained in the 1984 constitution: "The CDRs are the authentic grassroots organizations of the people in the exercise, control, defense, and consolidation of revolutionary power. . . ."

Following the coup, President Sankara's body was dumped in a shallow grave alongside others killed in the coup. Sankara's wife, Mariam, has demanded that she be allowed to give her husband a proper burial. The government has so far refused, fearing a funeral would provide a platform for expression of popular support for Sankara and opposition to the Popular Front regime.

In fact, medical authorities in the country have even said that legally, Thomas Sankara is not dead because the family has not declared his death to administrative authorities. A medical death certificate issued to Mariam Sankara even stated that Thomas Sankara died of "natural causes."

The Sankara family has been offered political asylum and financial aid by several governments. But in an interview reprinted in the March 30 *Jeune Afrique*, Mariam Sankara firmly stated she would not leave the country before the issue of her husband's grave had been resolved.

The February 19 Paris daily *Le Monde* reported that immigration authorities in Burkina Faso issued a statement claiming that Sankara and her two sons, Philippe and Auguste, might attempt to flee the country and should be stopped. When Sankara attempted to send her sons to visit a friend in the neighboring country of Mali over Christmas last year, they were denied permission to travel.

The BBC reported that in February



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Committee for Defense of the Revolution (CDR) office, 1985. Compaoré regime has dissolved CDRs, which aimed at involvement of masses in exercise of revolutionary power.

Mariam Sankara's office and home were searched and several documents were taken. Members of the family have also been warned not to see journalists and to stop their press campaign against the Popular Front, BBC reported.

According to an April 2 report from Agence France Presse, the government-run daily *Sidwaya* demanded that Mariam Sankara be tried for stealing state funds.

The charges are based on the alleged discovery of a suitcase containing 83.9 million Central African francs (US\$2.8 million). Burkinabe authorities claim the Sankara family removed the money from the presidential palace following the coup.

On March 4, the BBC reported that Pascal Sankara, brother of the late president, was arrested on February 22 and taken to National Security Headquarters for questioning. He was later taken away, tied to a tree, and severely beaten.

But in a March 29 statement a spokesman for the Popular Front government charged that the money had been removed by Salif Nikiema, a cook at the presidential palace, and Mady Sankara, a cousin of the former president. According to the report, under interrogation at National Security Headquarters, Sankara's cousin admitted taking some of the money before turning it over to Pascal Sankara.

Unveiling the real aim behind the charges — which is to smear the character of Sankara — the Popular Front spokesman asked, "What was all this money doing in the bedroom of Thomas Sankara? Did the man who called on his people to make huge sacrifices enrich himself secretly?"

This campaign of slander, detention, and torture against opponents of the October 15 overthrow of the revolutionary government is testimony to the massive popular support for the policies carried out under the leadership of Thomas Sankara.

London meeting of 200 hears report on S. Africa struggle

BY MARCUS EMERSON

Mzala rejected the view presented by the world media that the liberation struggle in South Africa has been beaten back. "The growth of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the major nonracial trade union federation in South Africa, and the creation of the South African Youth Congress prove that the struggle is very much alive," Mzala said.

Sipho Mzala, the keynote ANC speaker was involved in the struggles of the mid-1970s against Bantu education, a school system for Black South Africans designed to reinforce and perpetuate apartheid.

Mzala rejected the view presented by the world media that the liberation struggle in South Africa has been beaten back. "The growth of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the major nonracial trade union federation in South Africa, and the creation of the South African Youth Congress prove that the struggle is very much alive," Mzala said.

Mzala also pointed to the polarization taking place among whites. "In 1987, 7,000 whites refused military conscription," he said. "In occupied Namibia, several detachments of Black soldiers refused to go to Angola and have mutinied. On the other side of the polarization, local elections have shown massive swings to the right as the government of President Pieter Botha is unable to stop the unrest in the Black townships."

"It's the job of the oppressed to come together to force the U.S., British, and West German governments to impose compulsory, mandatory sanctions and thereby contribute to the fall of apartheid in South Africa," concluded Mzala.

Vets send Peace Convoy to Nicaragua

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Beginning May 21, veterans from around the country will be participating in the Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua. The convoy, made up of 50 vehicles filled with food and medical supplies for the children of Nicaragua, will be departing from three points — Seattle in the Northwest; Jay, Maine, in the Northeast; and Minneapolis in the Midwest. Picking up additional trucks and vans along the way, the caravan will meet in Austin, Texas, June 5. After two days of public events, the entire convoy will begin its drive through Mexico and Central America, arriving in Nicaragua June 17.

Bob Livesey, the convoy's eastern regional coordinator, said the effort is "symbolic, educational, and visible proof of what real humanitarian aid is." Livesey is a Vietnam war veteran and former U.S. Air Force sergeant. The donation of the convoy's vehicles will help to "replenish what was lost" in the U.S.-orchestrated contra war, he added.

Livesey also called on the U.S. government to pay reparations for the destruction wrought on Nicaragua.

The idea for the peace convoy came up among some Vietnam veterans who visited Nicaragua last fall. It has the backing of chapters of Veterans for Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Veterans Peace Action Teams, Lavender Veterans, and other veteran activists.

A number of Nicaragua solidarity groups have also gotten behind the project, including the Nicaragua Network, Quest for Peace, the Ben Linder Memorial Fund, and Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America.

Public educational events will be or-

ganized along the convoy routes, Livesey explained, to reach U.S. workers and farmers with the truth about the situation in Nicaragua.

He also appealed for financial support to service vehicles, for transportation costs, and to buy supplies. Volunteers are also needed.

Two Vietnam vets from United Paperworkers International Union Local 14 in

Jay, Maine — Ray Pineau and Dave McCluskey — are working with Livesey on the Northeast send-off. Jay was chosen, Livesey explained, "to call attention to the plight of the paperworkers" who've been on strike against International Paper Co. for more than 11 months.

For more information, contact: Veterans Peace Convoy, 2025 "I" St. NW, No. 313, Washington, D.C. 20006. Telephone (202) 785-7357.

Meetings for ANC youth leader draw hundreds in Minn., Calif.

Malombo Ntshilontshilo, a leader of the African National Congress Youth Section toured the Minneapolis-St. Paul area April 28-29; and Los Angeles May 3-4. Ntshilontshilo's national tour, which took him to 14 cities, was sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance. The meetings focused on publicizing the plight of more than 50 young South Africans who have been condemned to execution by the apartheid regime and building international pressure for their release.

In Minnesota, Ntshilontshilo spoke on several campuses. The tour was supported locally by the Progressive Students Organization and the Black Student Cultural Center of the University of Minnesota and by the Central America Committee and Peace Action Coalition of Macalester College.

The ANC youth leader stressed to students that the U.S. people as a whole have a special role to play in the worldwide struggle to isolate the South African government.

A reception and dinner held for Ntshilo-

ntshilo were attended by 30 guests from Namibia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and anti-apartheid activists from the Twin Cities area.

Ntshilontshilo spoke to more than 600 high school and university students, antiwar activists, and union members in the Los Angeles area. Some 100 students attended a meeting organized by the Los Angeles Student Coalition. The group has organized protests by high school students against apartheid over the last several months.

A meeting was organized for activists from the Salvadoran community. Ntshilontshilo told the 25 people who attended, "We always inspire the fighters in our training camps with the example of Nicaragua and El Salvador."

He visited striking Mobil Oil workers who are members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 1-547.

This article is based on reports from Jean Armbruster in Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Seth Galinsky in Los Angeles.

Sandinistas, Miskitos sign cease-fire

End of contra war opens way for new advances for Atlantic Coast autonomy

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — As part of ending the contra war, the Sandinista government signed a cease-fire agreement with a group of 200 armed Miskito Indians on April 30. They are part of the Miskito organization Yatama and had participated in the U.S.-backed contra war since 1981.

Under the agreement, the Yatama troops will keep their arms and return to their communities on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast to work with the Sandinista People's Army and defend an important border area.

The April 30 accord is the latest in a series of agreements reached over the past two years with groups of Miskito and Sumo Indians who once fought against the government. It is a measure of the Sandinistas' success in dealing with the conflicts as a political problem, not just as a military question.

With this latest agreement, "we can say that on the Atlantic Coast, peace has been completely consolidated with the ethnic groups that at one time or another had taken up arms" against the government, declared Tomás Borge, Nicaragua's minister of the interior.

Borge met with the Yatama leaders when they visited Managua May 4. The press was invited to observe part of their discussions.

Borge greeted the Yatama representatives briefly in their Miskito language. He noted that the experience in winning these peace agreements with Indian groups on the Atlantic Coast "was being taken into account" by the Sandinista leadership as they press for a definitive cease-fire with contra groups in other parts of the country.

Government supports autonomy

Borge told the Yatama delegation that although their decision to wage war "had not been the best road to choose," the Indian and Black peoples of the Atlantic Coast had legitimate demands that had not been responded to in the early days of the revolution.

The central demand raised by the coast peoples — for local autonomy and control over economic, social, and cultural questions affecting their communities — was initially rejected by the Sandinistas. This gave Washington and the contras an opening to promote armed uprisings under the pretense of fighting for Indian rights.

"Due to a lack of vision and a lack of understanding of reality, there was a time when we considered autonomy as something almost subversive," Borge told the Yatama delegation. "But experience demonstrated that autonomy was a just cause, and it has been adopted by the revolution."

As the autonomy process advanced, the Sandinistas were able to involve a growing number of coast people in the army and other defense forces, helping to decisively

defeat the contras. In addition, many others worked through local Peace and Autonomy Commissions, contacting members of the contra groups to urge them to stop fighting and come home.

The Yatama leaders said that the adoption of the Autonomy Law last year played an important role in their decision to stop fighting and return home. The law developed out of lengthy, broad-based discussions held throughout the Atlantic Coast beginning in 1985.

Yatama members followed the autonomy discussion closely by listening to Nicaraguan radio broadcasts, said Ricardo Lacayo. "When we learned of the points [on autonomy] approved by the Nicaraguan government, we said, 'That's correct, that's what we want' and decided we should come home."

The Radio Sandino news program, broadcast daily in Miskito, Sumo, and Spanish, was particularly effective, Lacayo noted. The Yatama delegation now wants the government to increase the multilingual broadcasts from a half hour to an hour or more each day.

Unity against U.S. imperialism

The area covered by the cease-fire agreement is located along the upper reaches of the Coco River. It includes 13 small villages, about 40 miles west of the towns of Leimus and Waspam. The Coco forms the boundary between Nicaragua and Honduras and has long been an entry point for contra forces infiltrating into Nicaragua from their camps in Honduras.

"This area used to be a war zone and the army did not have control there. Now it is a zone of peace," said Lt. Comdr. Salvador Pérez at the May 4 meeting. Pérez is the head of the Ministry of the Interior in the northern Atlantic Coast region.

"In addition," he stressed, "the local people will be involved in the defense and will be working with the government in the social and economic development of their area. Thus, this agreement marks a significant territorial and political extension of the revolution."

Under the terms of the agreement, the 200 Yatama troops will function as a local militia and "carry out joint actions with the Sandinista armed forces to defend the communities located along the nation's border." They will also collaborate to "guarantee the political-ideological and military preparation to defend the homeland against the common enemies: the FDN [U.S.-backed contras] and possible direct aggression by U.S. imperialism."

The militia will receive all its supplies from the Sandinista army, and will not carry out any "independent armed actions." All troop movements in the area covered by the cease-fire will be coordinated between the militia and the army.



Militant/Roberto Kopeck
A village assembly of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers meets in the Miskito village of Raitipura on Pearl Lagoon in Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast region.

The accord also calls for the reintegration of the Yatama troops into society "through a gradual and voluntary process." It proposes that one-third of the troops begin working in agriculture or forestry, that technical training and higher education be available for another one-third, and that the remainder remain as a separate militia force or join the Nicaraguan army.

Autonomy and national unity

The cease-fire accord recognizes the rights of the indigenous peoples as codified in Nicaragua's Autonomy Law. It starts from the perspective that Nicaragua is a "multiethnic nation."

The Yatama leaders accepted the authority of the Sandinista government throughout their cease-fire zone. Under the agreement, the militia will protect both government officials and state property in the area. They will not allow violations of Nicaraguan law, or permit army deserters or draft evaders in their ranks.

The accord also states that the "autonomy project is the legitimate fruit of the efforts of the [Nicaraguan] people and of the revolution." The militia members "will be able to present proposals for reforms to the Autonomy Law through the regional autonomy councils, as established by the law."

They will also "participate actively along with the corresponding governmental institutions in works to benefit the communities: schools, health centers, and strategic forestry, agricultural, and mining projects."

'Contra war did not help Indians'

Three of the Yatama leaders made presentations during the meeting with Borge.

"We realized we Indians were being used by the contras and the CIA," declared Máximo Pantín, head of the Yatama delegation. Earlier this year, he said, they had resisted pressure from CIA officials to get them to merge with the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan Resistance contra group and keep on fighting.

Pantín condemned Yatama leader Wycliffe Diego, who did join the Nicaraguan Resistance. "Diego was bought off for a few dollars," he said.

"The time came when we regretted having taken up arms against our Nicaraguan brothers," said Samuel Zepeda. "We lost seven years and did not help our people. Now we have come to seek the road to peace."

Reymundo Hunter addressed Borge in Miskito. "The contras treated us like animals," he said. "I want to thank the revolutionary government for treating us like human beings and for their concern for the rights of Indians."

The Yatama delegation described the misery and repression suffered by Nicaraguan Miskitos now living in Honduras. Miskito Indians have traditionally lived in both countries, sharing the Coco River as the center of trade, travel, and communication for their communities. Tens of thousands fled Nicaragua during the seven-year contra war, but once in Honduras they were forced into squalid refugee camps dominated by the contra groups.

"We were abused in Honduras," Zepeda told Borge. "They would not let Miskito refugees plant or hunt food. We had no government to speak for us. . . . But we are Nicaraguan. We know the revolutionary [Nicaraguan] government will not treat us as the Hondurans did."

20,000 return

Since 1984, some 20,000 coast peoples who had left during the war have returned to Nicaragua, most of them Miskito Indians. There are now an estimated 16,000 Miskitos left in refugee camps in Honduras.

Many want to return, Pantín said, but the Honduran army and contras are blocking their repatriation. Since February, he reported, troops of the Honduran 5th Infantry Battalion have repeatedly kidnapped Nicaraguan Miskitos traveling along the Coco River.

Nicaraguan Miskitos in Honduras who are seeking to return home have also been imprisoned and tortured by contras and Honduran troops, Pantín reported. He read a list of the names of dozens of Miskitos now being held in Honduras and asked Borge for help in pressing for their release.

Borge pledged that the government would try to facilitate the return of the remaining Miskitos and would seek international aid to provide for their resettlement.

Zepeda added that he and other Yatama leaders were speaking on Nicaraguan radio stations to urge other Miskitos to return home. "We tell them that we are doing fine here, without any problems," he said.

Nicaraguan unionists speak in U.S.

BY FRED FELDMAN

Juan Gonzáles Rojas spoke to more than 60 auto workers May 6 at two shifts at the Ford plant in St. Paul, Minnesota. Gonzáles, a prominent activist in the Sandinista Workers Federation, described the growth of Nicaragua's union movement since the 1979 revolution, and the damage done to the country by the U.S.-organized contra war.

On May 8 a car caravan headed out of Seattle for Yakima Valley, where the United Farm Workers of Washington State has been organizing. The caravan brought Alba Palacios Benavides, a member of the Nicaraguan Association of Rural Workers, and Marvin Cortez Estrada of Nicaragua's National Union of Public Employees to attend the annual Cherry Festival in the valley. There the unionists addressed hundreds of farm workers and others.

These were among the highlights of a 15-city U.S. tour by the three Nicaraguan unionists that will continue until May 28. The tour got under way at the end of April despite U.S. government efforts to block or disrupt it by stalling on visas for the three.

The State Department refused to act on

their visa request until April 29, although the tour had been scheduled to open in Southern California on April 23. As a result, the meetings in that area were addressed by local trade unionists acting as substitutes.

Four international union presidents issued a letter calling on union members to support the tour. Kenneth Blaylock of the American Federation of Government Employees; Henry Nicholas of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees; James Herman of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; and William Winpisinger, of the International Association of Machinists.

The letter protested the Reagan administration's stalling on issuing visas.

The Nicaraguans will tour New York and New Jersey May 18-21; Pennsylvania, May 22-25; and Washington, D.C., and Maryland, May 26-28.

The tour is being organized by the Nicaragua Labor Tour Coalition. For further information, contact the coalition office c/o American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 57, 235 W. MacArthur Blvd. Room 558, Oakland, Calif. 94611. Telephone (415) 272-9951.

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May 21-27: key week in circulation drive

BY JIM WHITE

As we go to press, supporters of the *Militant* are finalizing plans for the May 21-27 target week of our circulation campaign.

This is a special week to make up ground on the international drive to win 6,000 subscribers to the *Militant* and 1,500 to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as 1,500 new readers for the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. The drive has been behind schedule, but a strong effort now will put us in position to wrap up the drive in full and on time by June 15.

Tim Mailhot reports from New York, the city with the largest goal in the drive, that *Militant* supporters are organizing to win 200 readers during this week.

"The key will be a maximum effort on Saturday," he said. "We know we can get half of the goal for the week the first day — and that's what we're shooting for. We want to end the week on schedule for all three of our goals. In particular, we have to make a special effort to win readers for *PM* by setting up tables in places where we've sold well in the past."

In New Jersey, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells will make this a special week for campaigning

as well as for getting on schedule in the drive.

Tom Fiske, SWP candidate for Senate in New Jersey, will lead a three-day team to the central and southern parts of the state. Farm workers there have been especially receptive to *PM* in previous drives. He will be joined by Mindy Brudno, SWP congressional candidate from Newark, and campaign supporters from Newark and Philadelphia.

Saturday will be the biggest day, but it will take a big effort all week to catch up on the campaign. Both New York and Newark are organizing daily tables and door-to-door sales teams. Supporters will make special efforts at local plant gates and on the job. A New York team will be placing *New Internationalist* in bookstores all week.

While these preparations were going on we got word of the response to the socialist press by delegates to the Canadian Labor Congress convention in Vancouver. Paul Kouri, who attended, reports that 16 delegates took out subscriptions to the *Militant* and another 26 bought single copies. In addition, one subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial* and one copy of *New Internationalist* were sold.

If you want to join in the target week mobilization, look us up in the directory on page 12 or contact our business office at (212) 929-3486.

Socialist ticket gains in Ohio petitioning effort

Continued from front page

sion going, I would say a few words about the need for the unions to lead a political fight to have the workweek shortened," Husk said.

In discussions Oliver would emphasize that workers and farmers "have to put our massive numbers to work solving the crisis. I would also ask people what was going on in the plants where they work."

"They were anxious to talk about the speedup, the layoffs, the long shifts. A program to spread the available work around and put those millions to work who are without made sense," Oliver said.

"We pointed out that a fight for a shorter workweek can help to unify working people, whether they are currently employed or unemployed," Husk added.

Marty Pettit participated in another Lorain team. One man who signed the petition told her that he had moved there from West Virginia to find a job 20 years ago. "I've been working at the Ford plant here, but I don't know what my son and daughter are going to do for a job," he said.

Pettit also talked about the SWP campaign with a young hotel worker who has been going back and forth between Lorain and Puerto Rico trying to find a job. He purchased a *PM* subscription.

A young man who signed a petition in Cleveland said he had recently gotten a job

and a place to live after being homeless for a while. Another Cleveland team had a 15-minute discussion with a woman who runs a shelter for the homeless. When her husband drove up, the woman told him to sign the petition then made sure it was passed around to others in the car.

The Ohio drive is being bolstered by a full-time team of eight supporters, including members of the Young Socialist Alliance. They will concentrate on Cleveland campuses then travel to Youngstown, Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati, and coal-mining communities in southeastern Ohio.

After each Saturday mobilization, the Ohio campaign has scheduled public events. On May 21 Dick McBride, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from West Virginia, will speak on the fight to cancel the debt of Third World countries and the need to unify the working class internationally.

On May 28, a picnic has been scheduled where senatorial candidate Marshall will speak.

Militant editor Margaret Jayko will speak June 4 on "The Defeat of the Contras: Reconstructing the New Nicaragua."

Anyone interested in helping on the drive can contact the Ohio Socialist Workers 1988 Campaign Committee at 2521 Market Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44113. Telephone (216) 861-6150.

James River mill workers ratify pact

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — Paperworkers at James River Corp.'s Otis mill here voted 163 to 24 to approve a new three-year contract April 25 after several weeks of negotiations.

Some 90 percent of the workers — members of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 11 and Firemen and Oilers Local 247 — took part in the voting.

The new contract includes a \$1,000 signing bonus, and wage increases of 4.5 percent for each of the following two years. The current average wage at the mill is \$12.05 an hour.

James River Corp. describes itself as the fastest-growing paper manufacturer in the world, with assets of more than \$4.8 billion.

Workers in this area, especially paper-

workers, paid quite a bit of attention to the signing of this new contract. The James River mill is located not far down river from International Paper Co.'s Androscoggin mill, where workers have been on strike for close to 11 months, resisting company demands for concessions in wages, work rules, holidays, and benefits.

In negotiating this contract, James River did not go after some of the key concessions being demanded by IP, such as elimination of premium pay for Sunday and holiday work, and the introduction of a "team concept" productivity scheme.

James River paperworkers have been among the strongest supporters of the IP strikers, many of whom used to work in the Otis mill. IP owned the mill before selling it to James River a decade ago. The mill, which makes specialty papers, was originally built by IP in 1906.



Militant/Pete Seidman

Socialist literature table in Cleveland. Selling subscriptions and copies of socialist publications has been part of campaign in Ohio to get 10,000 signatures to place SWP candidates on ballot.

Sales Drive Progress

Area	Drive Totals			Militant subscriptions		New Internationalist single copies		Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions	
	Goal	Sold	%Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Birmingham, Ala.	175	91	52	140	69	25	20	10	2
Boston	350	178	51	240	142	50	14	60	22
Seattle	275	130	47	200	84	25	16	50	30
Los Angeles	600	272	45	340	160	100	56	160	56
Omaha, Neb.	125	56	45	80	43	25	11	20	2
New York	1,200	509	42	600	302	300	111	300	96
Twin Cities, Minn.	285	113	40	230	93	35	12	20	8
Detroit	250	97	39	185	85	40	4	25	8
Newark, N.J.	460	172	37	275	102	85	30	100	40
Miami	225	83	37	145	64	40	5	40	14
Austin, Minn.	90	31	34	65	26	15	3	10	2
Milwaukee	150	51	34	100	34	25	10	25	7
San Francisco	350	119	34	200	84	75	8	75	27
Pittsburgh	250	83	33	185	73	45	6	20	4
Atlanta	205	66	32	150	55	40	6	15	5
Chicago	350	111	32	215	80	60	19	75	12
Kansas City	130	40	31	90	32	20	2	20	6
Portland, Ore.	140	43	31	100	23	25	16	15	4
Houston	215	66	31	140	53	30	3	45	10
Greensboro, N.C.	170	47	28	140	43	20	2	10	2
Philadelphia	210	57	27	140	45	30	4	40	8
Oakland, Calif.	265	70	26	150	47	50	16	65	7
Washington, D.C.	250	64	26	170	41	50	10	30	13
Cleveland	145	36	25	110	32	20	3	15	1
Phoenix	240	56	23	135	29	30	5	75	22
Morgantown, W.V.	135	31	23	115	26	15	4	5	1
Des Moines, Iowa	195	43	22	140	34	30	6	25	3
St. Louis	250	51	20	190	42	50	8	10	1
Charleston, W.V.	120	22	18	100	15	15	7	5	0
Price, Utah	60	11	18	40	9	10	0	10	2
Salt Lake City	150	27	18	115	21	20	3	15	3
Baltimore	185	33	18	150	29	30	0	5	4
* Cincinnati	10	10	100	10	10	-	-	-	-
Louisville	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	-	23	-	-	22	-	-	-	1
U.S. totals	8,215	2,892	35	5,390	2,049	1,430	420	1,395	423
London	62	31	50	45	27	8	2	9	2
South Wales	40	16	40	27	15	10	0	3	1
South Yorks	45	14	31	30	12	5	0	10	2
Manchester	34	7	21	24	6	5	0	5	1
Nottingham	39	8	21	24	6	12	2	3	0
Other Britain	-	19	-	-	5	-	14	-	-
Britain totals	220	95	43	150	71	40	18	30	6
Canada	340	144	42	200	96	100	25	40	23
Iceland	15	4	27	15	4	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	220	175	80	180	150	30	18	10	7
* Puerto Rico	-	13	-	-	2	-	1	-	10
Other Internat'l	-	43	-	-	18	-	22	-	3
Totals	8,995	3,366	37%	5,935	2,386	1,600	504	1,475	472
Drive Goals	9,000			6,000		1,500		1,500	
Should be		5,292	59%						

Socialist candidates campaign in Ohio, Pa.

Warren talks with steelworkers, paper strikers, students

BY MARGARET HUSK

CLEVELAND — Workers at LTV's big steel mill got a chance to discuss some of the questions facing working people today with Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren during his visit here in early May.

Warren was joined by David Marshall, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Ohio, and a team of campaign supporters. Marshall works as a laborer at LTV. The discussion started at one of the mill gates and continued at a nearby tavern.

"The owners of LTV and other big corporations will try to impose their solutions to the economic crisis on us," Warren explained. "That's what happened in the 1930s, and the lesson is that we have to organize ourselves to fight back."

A laborer from the mill's coke plant asked Warren whether it's possible for working people — who are divided by race, sex, country of origin, and current economic status — to unite in a common struggle. "How many," he asked, "are willing to admit there's a crisis, and listen to the socialists' solutions?"

Warren explained that unity among workers is not only possible, but is an absolute necessity. "The actions of only a few who understand the situation we face, and are willing to lead a fight against the bosses, can help prepare thousands, and even millions of workers for the coming battles." The LTV worker decided to find out more about the socialist campaign and program.

Nearly 30 people, mostly students, attended a meeting for Warren at Ohio State University in Columbus, sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance. Warren also spoke at a citywide campaign rally here in Cleveland May 8.

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

PITTSBURGH — Late at night on May 12, after second shift was over, nearly a dozen members of United Steelworkers of America Local 15108 came over to a local bar to talk with Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren. The local organizes Pennex Products, a pharmaceutical company of 450 workers, most of whom are women.

Three years ago, union members there voted almost unanimously to give Pennex big concessions, including agreeing to a two-tier wage setup. Today, more workers are convinced that the union made a big mistake when it accepted the company's takeback demands. Some of them came to hear Warren.

Pathfinder Mural Project to contest citations at May 23 hearings in N.Y.

NEW YORK — The Pathfinder Mural Project is slated to appear before the city's Environmental Control Board May 23 to contest the issuance of 35 citations for alleged violation of an ordinance barring posting of leaflets in public places.

Each of the 35 citations carries a maximum fine of \$100.

Mural project Director Mike Alewitz charged that issuance of the tickets represented selective prosecution. He noted that other leaflets had been posted on the same lampposts and no citations were issued.

Various public figures have protested the harassment of the mural project, most recently New York State Assemblyman Roger Green, chairperson of the legislature's Black and Puerto Rican caucus.

In a letter to Mayor Edward Koch, who has publicly backed the harassment of the mural project, Assemblyman Green said:

"I am writing to express my support for the Pathfinder Mural Project located at 408 West Street. It is my understanding that the project has been harassed by the Environmental Control Board. It is my hope that this worthwhile project be allowed to continue unhampered."

"The Mural Project will become a part of the artistic ambience of New York City,"

Warren explained that the October 1987 stock market crash signaled the coming of a depression that will bring widespread unemployment, dislocation, and misery to millions of workers in the United States and throughout the world.

"Is there any way we can stop it?" one worker asked.

"We can't stop it because we didn't cause it," Warren answered. "It's a crisis of the capitalist system, which is in decline. But we can and should prepare ourselves and other workers for it, because the effects of the crisis will be felt most strongly by workers." The biggest priority of workers in the union movement must be the fight for jobs, Warren explained.

"How can we use the unions when people won't stick together?" a woman worker asked. "We have 450 workers and only 20 people come to union meetings."

"The unions must be totally transformed into fighting organizations that defend not just the interests of a narrow grouping, but the whole working class," Warren replied. "That's how the big industrial unions were formed in the 1930s."

"That fighting tradition has been lost in the last 50 years," the socialist candidate continued. "In addition, the unions have become bound up in so much red tape that it's virtually impossible to carry out a successful struggle within the limits set by the labor laws."

The lively discussion lasted for several hours. As Warren got ready to leave, the bartender — who'd been reading Warren's jobs program during the discussion — came over to shake his hand. "I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America for 10 years," he said, "and in that union, I learned the importance of solidarity. If we don't support the South African miners' fight, we can't win anything here."

The next day, Warren traveled to Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, where more than 700 members of United Paperworkers International Union Local 1787 have been on strike against International Paper Co. for more than 11 months.

Several strikers and wives who are active in the union's support group attended a meeting for Warren at the local YMCA. Several paperworkers had helped publicize the meeting by distributing fliers during the week. In addition, the union support committee's newsletter carried an announcement of the event.

After his talk, several people said they had been thinking along the same lines as Warren, but had hoped he would have a

Green added. "It's a project we will all be proud of."

Koch has charged that the project failed to obtain necessary permits for the scaffolding used in the mural. In a March 25 letter responding to the mayor, Meryl Lynn Farber, representing the mural project, explained that the project's permit had been obtained on Nov. 13, 1987, and was renewed on Feb. 13, 1988.

The mural being painted on the six-story wall of the Pathfinder building celebrates revolutionary figures whose works are published by Pathfinder.

The leaflets for which the citations were issued announced an open house where community residents could meet Nicaraguan artist Arnaldo Guillén and view the mural in progress.

The tickets were issued under a 1985 ordinance providing penalties to those who "paste, post, paint, print or nail any handbill, poster, notice, sign or advertisement upon any curb, gutter, flagstone, tree, lamppost, awning post, telegraph pole, public utility pole, public garbage bin, bus shelter" and other public places.

The mural project will be represented at the May 23 hearing by attorney Edward Copeland of the firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky, and Lieberman.



Kathleen Mickells (right) talks with workers outside Good Lad sewing factory in Philadelphia.

brighter picture of the future.

"I'm not going to paint a rosy picture for you," Warren said. "But you have an advantage here because of the struggle you've already been through. You can play a role in explaining to other workers what's coming down the road, and what they can do to prepare."

"I wish we had a larger turnout for this meeting," one worker said. "I'm afraid we still have a lot of people who back off when

they hear the words 'socialism' and 'communism.'"

"I think the school system is largely to blame for that," his wife added. "There isn't even one course in labor history offered today in the high school."

Warren agreed that workers can learn valuable lessons by studying the history of labor struggles in the 1930s. After the meeting, Warren was encouraged to return to Lock Haven on June 18, when a national solidarity rally is planned for the strikers.

Mickells discusses jobs fight and imports with garment workers

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — "Imports don't cause layoffs," Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president, told garment workers here May 2. "That's a smokescreen to keep our attention off who's really responsible — the capitalists who own the garment industry," she said. "And it's a way to keep us divided among ourselves."

"What we need is a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, to create more jobs," Mickells continued. "We don't need to fight against garment workers in other countries who face worse conditions than we do. We're all part of the working class, no matter what country we live in."

Mickells was talking with garment workers on their lunch break at the Good Lad factory. Mickells herself worked as a sewer in a garment shop during a layoff from the Pennsylvania coal mine where she worked.

"I know about your campaign because I read about it in the *Militant*," one worker

told her. Another woman said she got a leaflet about Mickells from a supporter of the socialist campaign who works in the shop. Several others said they would get subscriptions to the *Militant* after payday.

Mickells also campaigned among conductors and engineers who work for SEPTA, the commuter rail line, at Suburban Station. Several described the severe attacks on wages and working conditions that SEPTA workers have faced in recent years. Four bought subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Mickells also talked with auto workers at the Budd assembly plant and visited the BP refinery where 320 members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union have been on strike since January. She also spoke at a May 1 campaign rally and visited a group of campaign supporters in Wilmington, Delaware.

An article about Mickells' visit headlined "Socialist is running on principle" appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

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May 21 – July 9

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Building 'a new Havana': firsthand report

Editor of book on Che Guevara describes mass movement of Cuban people to

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEW YORK — "Throughout Havana, there's hardly a street without a mini-brigade working at a construction site, building either a child-care center, a polyclinic, a family doctor home-office, an apartment building, or a new hospital, or repairing a theater, or renovating a hotel." David Deutschmann, editor of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, was describing some of what he saw during a two-month stay in Havana, Cuba, earlier this year.

I was able to speak with him recently in Pathfinder's offices here. Deutschmann, who lives in Australia, represents Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, which published the book of Guevara's writings and speeches with editorial collaboration from the José Martí Publishing House in Cuba. Deutschmann was in Havana for the book's March 28 public launching, which received widespread attention in Cuba. He was also there to work on the preparation of further books on the Cuban revolution to be published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia.

This trip, made in February and March, was Deutschmann's seventh visit to Cuba. During this stay he was able to participate in several of the hundreds of voluntary work brigades, called "minibrigades," that are at work throughout Havana.

The minibrigades are at the heart of a broader development taking place within the revolution, which the Cubans call the rectification process. This process was initiated in 1986 by the Cuban Communist Party, in response to a growing conviction in the party leadership that it was making some serious political errors.

For more than a decade, less and less attention had been paid to organizing and leading the Cuban people to solve pressing social problems — such as the housing shortage — through a voluntary, collective effort. As a result, a process of depoliticization and demoralization had set in that was feeding the growth of bureaucratic indifference, reactionary attitudes, and corruption.

The Cuban Communist Party, mass organizations, and the entire people began to discuss and debate how to turn this situation around. It became increasingly clear to broad layers of the party leadership that one of the major political errors being made was acting as if progress toward socialism and the eventual emergence of communist society would happen automatically, simply because the factories, mills, and other productive property were no longer privately owned, and because a system of economic planning and management had been set up.

Nothing could be further from the truth, they declared, and the party leadership

strongly reaffirmed Cuba's revolutionary course: only the conscious, mobilized participation of the masses of working people themselves in solving their pressing social needs could create the resources and develop the level of political consciousness necessary to move Cuban society forward. That could only happen if the process was led by a conscious, communist vanguard that was itself revitalized, renewed, and reeducated in the process.

Central to getting the revolution back on course has been a return to organizing voluntary work brigades, which are a form of mass revolutionary action. The minibrigades are working on hundreds of construction projects beginning in Havana.

"The minibrigades are really a mass movement," Deutschmann said, "led by the Cuban Communist Party and Union of Young Communists. More than 30,000 people are now working full-time on more than 1,500 construction sites throughout the capital. The brigade members have volunteered to leave their regular jobs in order to work on these projects."

"Usually people are scheduled to be on a brigade for a two- or three-year period, although sometimes it's shorter," he continued. "But that length of time is needed in order to develop the necessary skills. Very few people who work on the minibrigades have ever had experience in this kind of work."

In addition to the 30,000 full-time brigade members, there are also hundreds of thousands of people in Havana who work on the minibrigades either during the week after work, or on Saturday or Sunday — sometimes every weekend, he added.

"Last year more than 400,000 Cubans earned certificates for completing at least 40 hours of voluntary work, even though the campaign was begun late in the year."

"This year, working people in Cuba have set themselves the target of completing 120 hours of voluntary work before Jan. 1, 1989 — the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution," Deutschmann said. "I should add that many workers, especially in factories that have led the way in this minibrigade movement, are actually aiming to complete this 120-hour target by July 26. That's the 35th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada army barracks in 1953, which was the beginning of the end for the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship. It was overthrown on Jan. 1, 1959."

A working-class perspective

I asked Deutschmann about the origin of the minibrigades and why there was such an enthusiastic response to them.

"Mass participation in voluntary work

projects was an important part of the revolution in Cuba right from the beginning," Deutschmann explained. "In the early years, it was obviously the only way to mobilize the work force necessary to rapidly build schools and clinics and homes and parks. Before the sugarcane harvest was mechanized — one of the great achievements of the Cuban revolution — the cane, which is the basis of Cuba's agricultural economy, could only be brought in by mobilizing hundreds of thousands of volunteers during several months each year."

Organizing volunteer work as a mass movement, Deutschmann went on, is a political question, a question of class perspectives. That's how the Cuban leadership approaches it. "It changes people's attitudes toward work, especially manual labor, which many Cubans still tend to look down on. It educates people to look for collective not individual solutions to social problems. It's part of developing communist consciousness," he said.

Deutschmann explained that Che Guevara, the Argentine-born revolutionary who was one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution until his death in 1967, understood this very thoroughly. Che helped organize and lead the first voluntary work efforts in Cuba.

Volunteer labor, Deutschmann added, "has always been part of the program of the communist movement, from Marx and Engels on. It was an important part of the early years of the Russian revolution too. Lenin and other Bolshevik leaders not only explained its political importance but, like Che and the Cuban leaders, they took part in volunteer projects, helping to set the example."

The problem in Cuba, Deutschmann continued, is that from the mid-1970s on volunteer labor began to decline. Following the introduction of a new system of economic planning and management modeled on those of other socialist countries, volunteer labor almost disappeared. The attitude began to grow that volunteer labor was an idealistic, naive notion of Che's, because in reality people only work hard in response to material incentives. According to this approach, working-class leadership doesn't count for much, and communist consciousness is only something one gives lip service to.

"That's why the enthusiasm and mass response to the relaunching of the minibrigade movement is so important," Deutschmann insisted. "It shows all the skeptics that Che — and Lenin and Marx — were right. As Cuban President Fidel Castro keeps insisting, to be a communist means having confidence in the capacity of working people to achieve great things

through conscious, collective effort. At that's what is happening today in Cuba."

"People are enthusiastic because, as the tell you, they feel useful working on the construction brigades. They know they are doing something important."

It is not surprising that changes of the scope and character have met real resistance, however, including within the party leadership and government ministries, as well as among administrators and technicians. Cuban President Fidel Castro referred to this problem in a speech to the City of Havana provincial meeting of the Communist Party of Cuba last November 29.

An example of the kind of resistance that is being overcome, Castro said, were objections that had been raised to giving top priority to meeting the long-neglected need for a major expansion of day-care facilities to provide care for tens of thousands additional children. This in turn would make it possible for tens of thousands more mothers to enter the work force. Some functionaries had argued that economic resources should be invested in production, Castro explained, not social expenses like day-care centers.

"Whenever they say no day-care center," the Cuban leader said, "you can be sure there is a technocratic, bureaucratic, reactionary concept at work."

"It didn't enter the technocrat's head that day-care centers were essential to production and the services. . . . Of course, their misconceptions have been corrected."

He also referred to those with petty-bourgeois attitudes who are "allergic" to the whole idea of voluntary work brigades, with their proletarian spirit of hard work and discipline. "Let the petty bourgeoisie worry about their fears and their doubts," he said. "Our working people are not afraid of anything. Our working people are not afraid of any effort."

Restructuring the economy

I asked Deutschmann how the brigades were organized, and whether there was a difference in the work done by the full-time brigade members and the part-time volunteers.

"They're more or less organized on the basis of workplace," he responded, "although some workplaces and government ministries, because of their size, have more than one minibrigade going at a time."

"What happens is that people volunteer from a workplace to be a permanent member of that workplace's minibrigade," said Deutschmann. "There's a great surge of people volunteering. In fact, not everyone who's volunteered is yet able to participate, because of a continuing shortage of construction materials."

"People actually are selected by their field-



Shopping in a Havana supermarket (left). Minibrigades built four new supermarkets last year. Sign on left reads, "The ideal solution for the working woman: canned goods that



allow you to prepare a meal in an instant." Day-care center in Havana (right). Last year minibrigades built 54 new centers; another 50 to 55 is this year's goal.

Part on Cuba's volunteer work brigades

meet social needs

low workers to participate in the minibrigades," Deutschmann continued. "So within the brigades, you often have people who've played a vanguard role within their workplace, outstanding workers who've exceeded their production quota and who are respected because of their work over a period of time."

"The work that minibrigade members would do on their regular jobs," continued Deutschmann, "is then made up for by the remaining workers, who organize to take up the slack."

One of the important things that is happening, Deutschmann explained, is that the entire distribution of the work force is changing as a result of the minibrigade movement. Most offices and factories in Cuba are overstaffed, some with two and three times the number of people needed. As the workers at each workplace discuss who can be released to participate in the minibrigades, they usually come to the conclusion that they can easily meet all their production goals with a smaller work force. Enterprises that previously operated at a loss are becoming more efficient and profitable. The whole structure of the economy is being changed — without layoffs or unemployment or wrenching dislocations. Just the opposite."

Social projects, housing

"Most of the minibrigades have a standard size of around 30 people," said Deutschmann. "Out of this group, up to 12 are then released to work with similar groups from other brigades on what the Cubans call *obra social* — social works, literally. These are projects that meet such social needs as day-care centers. The remaining members of the brigade stay behind to work on housing construction, usually an apartment building."

Deutschmann explained why so much of the minibrigades' efforts were going into housing.

"There are two construction priorities of the minibrigade movement," he said. "One is to overcome the tremendous housing shortage in Havana, and to replace substandard housing. Cuban President Fidel Castro, in a speech given last fall, estimated that there were 70,000 substandard dwellings in Havana. This is a problem that's existed for years. So they're constructing small and large apartment buildings to fill this pressing need."

Some 10,000 housing units will be built in 1988 — that's double the number built the previous year. The goal is 250,000 new dwellings and 250,000 repaired dwellings by the year 2000.

"The second priority of the minibrigades," continued Deutschmann, "is their work on the social projects. In 1988, the goal is to build another 50 to 55 child-care centers in Havana and 20 new poly-clinics, and to finish work on 24 schools for children with special needs, 28 bakeries, and 600 family doctor home-offices."

Last year, the minibrigades completed 54 child-care centers, 613 family doctor home-offices, three video halls, three student houses, two secondary schools, four supermarkets, 12 gymnasiums, a 200-bed hospital ward, a nursing school, an orphanage, 18 workshops to employ 600 disabled people, a dormitory for the National Arts School, and a machine production plant and supply depot for the minibrigades.

That doesn't exhaust the list of social projects. The minibrigades are also working on a big national exhibition center on the outskirts of Havana, several major hospital extensions, sports facilities, schools, theaters, and stores. And there are plans to expand their work even more.

The brigade members are also rotated, so they get a chance to work on both housing construction and social projects.

Leadership of brigades

I asked how the brigade members are trained.

"First of all," replied Deutschmann, "they are supervised centrally, in terms of the design of the building. The brigade has



Minibrigade at work constructing a new apartment building in Havana. Of the 30,000 full-time participants in the brigades, one-

third to one-half are women. Goal is to build 10,000 new housing units this year — double last year's achievement.

Socialist Action/Terry Coggan

a team of architects, surveyors, and planners to call on, who supervise the construction of the building, with all necessary standards being maintained.

"But there are many brigades that consist solely of people who have never had any experience in construction before. So people have to learn skills — and they do."

"There's a certain period of training. And they get help from professional construction workers. But once that period is finished, a minibrigade is in many ways up to its own resources. That's one of the fascinating things to watch," Deutschmann observed. "People have to resort to their own ingenuity, and develop their own skills. This too is done in a conscious, coordinated way — otherwise you would have buildings collapsing around you!"

"The minibrigades also have coordinators," Deutschmann said. "These workers are responsible for the management of the minibrigade itself, and the construction of the building. Members of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Union of Young Communists play central roles, leading and coordinating the brigade's work and involving as many people as possible."

Lack of construction materials

I asked Deutschmann how the Cuban government was tackling the problem of the shortage of construction materials that he described.

"It's not easy to solve," he replied. "They have to buy a lot of their heavy construction materials from outside of Cuba, which often have to be paid for in hard currency or dollars. This is very difficult for Cuba, because of its economic situation. The accelerated depreciation of the dollar, together with the low price of sugar on the world market, has forced Cuba to cut the imports they pay for in hard currency to one-fourth of what they were in 1984. So their approach is to produce more construction materials within Cuba itself, and they've just recently taken some measures to do that."

"One step," he continued, "has been the establishment of what are called 'contingents' — really large-scale minibrigades. These take on special projects, sort of troubleshooting. For example, one contingent — in a matter of months — completed a major road project that had been under way for years."

"Another such contingent was launched on April 5, consisting of 1,000 people," he continued. "This one was seen as something very significant because it was com-

posed entirely of women."

"This particular contingent," said Deutschmann, "is going to be working in factories that make construction materials. They've used the concept of a minibrigade — this one is really a macrobrigade — in order to help overcome the problem of the shortage of construction materials. It's the same idea of people relying on their own collective efforts — not some magical 'plan' — to solve the problem."

A new ministry has also been established, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, to help get the minibrigades the equipment and materials they need. It is overseeing an expansion in the production of cement, brick, flagstone, roofing slabs, tiles, floor materials, bathroom accessories, window frames, glass, steel and steel rods, electric cables, and other supplies for this kind of massive construction effort. There's also a new factory that manufactures concrete mixers, winches, sand sifters, saws, and hoists — all basic equipment for the brigades.

New roles for women

I asked Deutschmann about the number of women involved in the minibrigades, and what kind of work they did.

"There's no set quota," he answered,

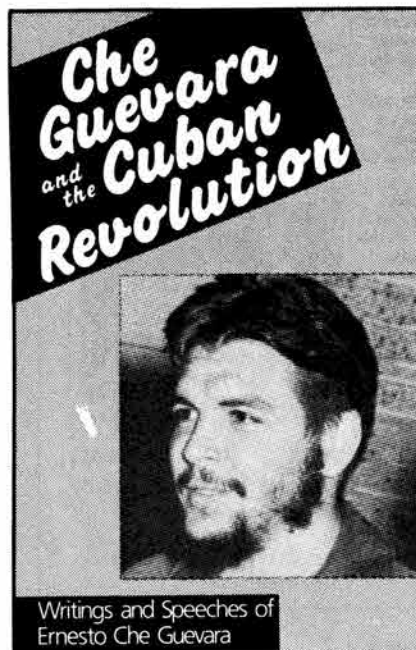
"but women comprise anywhere from one-third to one-half of the minibrigade members. I already mentioned the giant construction brigade of 1,000 women. Their average age is 30."

"Women are very conscious of their role within the minibrigades," described Deutschmann, "because they're doing work that is not generally seen as work for women — even in Cuba, where women have made tremendous gains since the revolution in 1959."

"This process hasn't come naturally, and you wouldn't expect it to," he said. "I had a number of discussions with women on the minibrigades I was on, as we were working together. They explained some of the resistance that they met at first."

"It hasn't been difficult for women to be part of the minibrigade movement itself," Deutschmann explained. "Public support for the movement is so strong that it's been easy for women to join in great numbers. The main question has been the type of work that women perform once they're on the brigades. Are they going to do secondary, or subsidiary tasks, or are they going to participate in all the tasks that are central to the construction of a building?"

The women brigade members explained
Continued on next page



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Report on Cuba's volunteer work brigades

Continued from previous page

to Deutschmann that when the brigades started, women would often be given the lighter tasks, such as laying tiles on the floors and walls. There was some resistance at first to women doing jobs like shoveling, wheelbarrowing, bricklaying, or plastering.

"Often," he explained, "the resistance is overcome by example. Some women just insist on being full members of the brigade. I could tell they'd had a lot of success, because there we were shoveling or wheelbarrowing together!"

Concern for quality

I asked Deutschmann what kind of work schedule the brigades had.

"The average workweek is six days," he replied, "although some work seven days a week, sometimes for months."

"Because of the heat," Deutschmann continued, "the minibrigades often start early in the mornings, perhaps at 7:00 a.m., whereas usually the workday starts at 8:00 a.m. They want to be able to get as much work as possible done before the heat in the middle of the day, which can be immobilizing."

"It's not unusual for people to work 10 hours a day on these construction sites — and sometimes 12 or 14 hours," he said. "This has actually been a problem in some minibrigades. They've had to tell people to stop work and go home."

"This happens because the movement generates enthusiasm and a momentum of wanting to achieve something that's socially useful. That momentum really gathers force, and you can see it," he added.

Deutschmann went on to describe several of the brigades he worked on. "We were constructing small apartment buildings, five stories high, with about 15 apartments in each building," he said. "The plan originally was to complete these apartments by October 1988. But the brigade members were determined to complete them by July 26th."

"Although they're working to finish this project early," he continued, "people talk constantly about how they will not sacrifice quality in constructing the new apartment buildings. And the pride they take in their work! Often I had trouble actually working because people would take me from my job to show me the tiles they had laid, or how they'd managed to create an arch, or some other difficult piece of work they'd completed."

I wondered whether the apartment build-

ings that a minibrigade built would be for the members of that particular brigade.

"Generally not," Deutschmann answered. "The majority of both the permanent and volunteer brigade members either don't require housing, or if they do, they're not necessarily going to be the ones who'll be moving into the particular apartment house they're building."

Lives change

I asked Deutschmann how the Cuban men and women he worked with described their experiences on the minibrigades.

"They say themselves that their whole lives change," he replied. "They have a different view of the revolution today than before they began working on the minibrigade."

"The people I spoke with had been on the brigade for 18 months or more," he went on, "so they were some of the pioneers. They said things won't be the same for them again, even if they return to their old jobs in the government ministry they came from. They saw themselves as permanent participants in some kind of voluntary work, continuing in the evenings or week-ends. People spoke about what they were going to build next, after they finished this apartment building."

Some work during vacations

Deutschmann described a minibrigade that was just starting up from the José Martí Publishing House. "They're constructing a five-story apartment building," he said. "This is being done with one permanent worker. Over the next year, the brigade is going to finish this project almost solely with voluntary labor on nights and weekends. Some people also work during their vacations. I know many who are planning this year to work half of their four-week vacation on the brigade." All Cuban workers have four weeks annual paid vacation.

Deutschmann said the publishing house brigade's building was going to have a special doctor's clinic on the ground floor, where there will also be living quarters for both a doctor and a nurse. The remaining four floors will be apartments. In this case, half of the apartments will be for people from the publishing house, and the other half will be to meet general housing needs. They're also not sending people away to work on another social project, because in this case, it's built right into the building in the form of the doctor's clinic.

I wondered what a typical apartment



Socialist Action/Terry Coggan

Minibrigade members take a break. Enthusiasm and commitment to brigades' goals is so great that volunteers often put in extra time and even work during vacations.

would look like.

"None were finished yet, so I couldn't see what they'd finally look like," Deutschmann said. "But I found that there was lots of care going into these apartments. People were going out of their way to make them as comfortable and pleasant as possible."

"The apartments varied," he continued. "Some had one bedroom, some had two bedrooms, some were larger. They were designed to make full use of airflow because of the heat. That's a problem with apartments or houses in a tropical country like Cuba. Most apartments can't have air-conditioning, so they try as much as possible within the design of the building to maximize the airflow."

"I remember watching people working in the kitchens, fixing the sinks and doing the tiling, working in the bathrooms," he described. "It was as if they were building their own apartment, and it was going to be theirs for the next 30 or 40 years. They would carefully scrape every little tile."

Deutschmann added that Félix Sautié, director of the José Martí Publishing House, was also part of their minibrigade, "working alongside everyone else."

This is not unusual, he said. "I was on another minibrigade twice. Both times, one of the deputy-ministers of the government ministry this brigade came from was down there with us, working on the site. No one made a big deal about it. It seemed completely natural that he would be there."

Describing the different backgrounds of the members of that brigade, which was working on a daycare center, Deutschmann said, "Others there had driven tanks in the army. Some were statisticians from another ministry. There was even a conductor from an orchestra on this building site."

Moving outside Havana

"Why have the minibrigades concentrated their work in Havana?" I asked.

"That's where the greatest need was felt," Deutschmann replied. "For many years the Cuban government has decentralized resources in the country. One of the things they have done — as opposed to what happened before the revolution under the Batista dictatorship — is to emphasize development of rural areas in the 13 other provinces of the country. This was done at the expense of devoting resources to the city of Havana."

"The Cuban government did this for two reasons," he continued. "The first was to rapidly improve the wretched conditions that existed in the countryside when the revolution came to power. The other reason was to minimize population migration into Havana. So it's only been in the last few years, and especially with the start of the minibrigades, that the Cuban people

have begun to devote further resources to the development of the city of Havana itself."

"Fidel has spoken about building 'a new Havana,'" Deutschmann said. "This is something the participants in the minibrigades talk about, and they're confident they'll do it. They foresee that within the next five or 10 years, Havana is going to be transformed through the minibrigades and voluntary work. They're not relying on someone else, or a ministry, or some 50-year plan for the development of Havana. They will do it themselves now."

"The Havana minibrigades are just the first stage of a national effort, too," Deutschmann added. "Starting this year the movement will be increasingly extended to other parts of the country."

Young people join in

"How about young people," I asked. "Are many of them involved in the minibrigades?"

"Yes," Deutschmann answered. "There's strong participation of young people, and it's not just because they're youthful and have the physical energy."

"I had a discussion with a young man in his late twenties," he went on, "who had a senior professional job in one of the government ministries. He had worked for six or seven months building a daycare center. He was so proud of their work. He took me down to see it, and described the different problems they had building it."

"This man," Deutschmann continued, "described how this work was a way to really contribute something to the revolution. He had been born in the first years after the revolution, and therefore hadn't participated in that struggle or in the early tumultuous years after the triumph. He's aware of the fact that he plays a role in the construction of a stronger economy for Cuba through his regular job. But he wanted to do something more, to be part of a revolutionary movement, to do something that would really advance the revolution, conquer new ground. And that's what the minibrigades are doing. They are accomplishing something that has never been done before — not on this scale, 30 years after the triumph of a socialist revolution. It's truly a historic development."

High school and college students also participate in the brigades on a volunteer basis while they're in school. "I had the chance to meet a few people who had gone straight from the university to work on a minibrigade," Deutschmann said. "Their lives were changed. They told me they weren't sure what type of jobs they wanted after this experience on the minibrigade. They were proud of the education they had received, but they also had a different attitude toward physical labor than ever before. They were ready to do anything."

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The May issue of PM features a speech given by Nicaraguan leader Tomás Borge at a recent international Seminar of Indigenous Peoples for Peace and Autonomy, held in Managua. The speech takes up the "discovery" of America and the fight for the rights of Indian peoples.

"To the general demands of the class struggle it is necessary to incorporate the specific struggles of the indigenous peoples," Borge said. "They are intertwined and they condition each other."



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U.S. gov't stalls as acid rain kills

BY HARRY RING

Acid rain — made in the USA — has been taking an increasing toll on Canada's forests, rivers, and lakes. Anger over this is running deep among Canadians and, in his recent Washington visit, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney tried to look like he was doing something about it.

As he had previously, Mulroney urged Reagan to take action to curb the deadly pollutants. Reagan responded he would "reflect" on the problem.

Meanwhile, at an international parley on the issue, U.S. delegates demanded the right of U.S. industries to emit 20 percent more of a key ingredient in acid rain that was produced last year. They argued the United States should be given a "credit" for previously made, alleged, reductions.

A Canadian official said the U.S. demand would increase nitrogen oxide emissions by 4 million tons a year.

Acid rain is a substantial international problem. It has done enough damage to move a number of governments to curb it. European governments have adopted a common policy aimed at reducing the principal chemical ingredient in acid rain by 30 percent of 1980 levels by 1993. Japan is using an advanced technology for reducing acid-rain emissions.

The main component of acid rain is sulphur dioxide produced by coal-burning power plants and factories. An added ingredient is nitrogen oxides from such plants and from motor vehicles.

Spewed into the air, these destructive compounds fall to earth as particles of dry acid or, when mixed with moisture, as acid rain. In winter, it becomes acid snow.

In bodies of water, the fall of acid rain kills or inhibits the growth of various organisms.

Canada has been especially hard hit by acid rain, mainly from U.S. power plants,

with eastern Canada taking the brunt of it.

It's estimated that more than 3 million tons of sulphur dioxide are dumped on Canada each year.

In eastern Canada 14,000 lakes are "acid dead," incapable of sustaining fish or plant life. Thirteen salmon-bearing rivers in Nova Scotia have been hit the same way.

The Quebec area, a principal producer of maple syrup, has experienced widespread devastation of its maple trees.

Not all the acid rain is blown up to Canada. It's taking its toll in the United States as well.

A trade association of maple syrup producers estimates that syrup production on both sides of the border has been slashed 45 percent by acid rain.

Four years ago, it was found that 3,000 lakes and 23,000 miles of stream in the eastern United States had been acidified or were on the brink of it.

Until recently, it was assumed that acid rain is mainly a threat to bodies of fresh water. But new research finds the Atlantic Ocean areas are being hit as well.

Researchers had thought that the increasing incidence of mass killings of marine life along the northeast Atlantic coast was due primarily to the runoff of sewage and agricultural chemicals. Now studies confirm that acid rain is a principal culprit. The polluted rain contributes to a proliferation of algae which, in turn, chokes off oxygen needed by marine life.

Increasingly, fishermen are bringing in catches of dead lobsters and crabs.

Researchers studying the continuing decline of water quality in New York's Long Island Sound predicted the problem would grow worse if no action is taken.

The toll of acid rain is by no means limited to marine life. Medical experts have testified that pollutants linked to acid rain are an important cause of asthma and bron-



School of fish killed in North Carolina river by explosive growth of algae, which depleted oxygen supply. Acid rain increases amount of nitrogen in water, causing such algae blooms.

chitis. Children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with heart disease are at special risk from this.

A congressional study estimated that each year in this country, 50,000 people die prematurely from inhaling acid rain particles and moisture.

What is particularly outrageous about all this is that only one thing stands in the way of dealing with the problem — profits. The big utilities and industries that produce the bulk of acid rain simply don't want to spend the money on the smokestack scrubbers and other available technology to reduce acid emissions. And the federal government, dedicated to serving industry,

stubbornly refuses to take action to compel the use of such measures.

Four states — Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin — have passed laws requiring reductions in acid rain emissions. But no such action has been taken in the Ohio Valley-Appalachia region which is regarded as the principal source of acid rain.

Congress has been deliberating on the problem since 1981. Reagan is reflecting on it. The Environmental Protection Agency asserts it can't take any action until it completes its study of the problem.

Yet acid rain was scientifically identified 90 years ago.

Namibia leader speaks at N.Y. rally

BY MERYL LYNN FARBER

NEW YORK — "As I speak to you today, the Namibian people are engaged in a bitter struggle with the racist and fascist South African regime," said Sam Nujoma, president of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) at a rally for Namibian independence here, May 6. The rally was sponsored by the American Committee on Africa (ACOA) and radio station WBAI.

SWAPO, formed in 1960, is leading the struggle for Namibia's liberation from South African colonial rule. In 1966 South Africa refused to acknowledge the United Nations' revocation of its mandate over Namibia. That same year SWAPO launched an armed struggle through its military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, against the South African occupation forces.

Nujoma explained that the May 4, 1978, massacre of more than 600 Namibian men, women, and children at the Kassinga Refugee Camp in southern Angola will forever stand as an example of the brutality of the South African regime. That date is now

marked in Namibia by demonstrations and protests demanding independence from South African rule.

Nujoma was joined on the platform by Valerie Van Issler of WBAI; M. William Howard, president of the ACOA; Cleveland Robinson of District 65 United Auto Workers; and Susan Mnumzana representing the African National Congress of South Africa. The ANC is leading the fight against the apartheid regime in South Africa for a nonracial democratic society.

Stressing the unity of the two organizations, Mnumzana said, "The people of South Africa and the people of Namibia are facing great obstacles and challenges on the road to liberation with great courage."

Nujoma also spoke to a rally of 500 in New York's Black community of Harlem the following day. The rally was sponsored by the Patrice Lumumba coalition and the African and Caribbean Resource Center.

New York State Assemblyman Roger Green hosted a reception for Nujoma on May 7 at which Green appealed for support for legislation he has introduced to cut the state's ties to the apartheid regime.

Anti-apartheid youth tortured in jail

Relatives of Peter Ramoshane Mokaba, one of the most prominent anti-apartheid youth leaders in South Africa, say he is seriously ill after torture and deprivation during detention in a police cell.

The charge was contained in an application filed by Mokaba's lawyers in a Pretoria court on April 20, seeking a court order to prevent further torture of the youth.

Mokaba's sister said in a sworn statement that when she and her mother went to visit her brother on April 9 at the Pietersburg security police headquarters to deliver clean clothes and money to him, he told his mother about torture and maltreatment in the prison.

Mokaba was arrested March 21 by cops in Johannesburg under the country's state of emergency decree.

Twenty-seven-year-old Mokaba is the national president of the South African Youth Congress, which is affiliated to the broad anti-apartheid coalition, the United Democratic Front.

On April 25, Rena Cacoullos, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance in the United States, sent a letter of protest to South Africa's President Pieter Botha. It condemned Mokaba's arrest and torture and said:

"Such brutal treatment and denial of democratic rights of a representative of millions of youth in South Africa is a crime against all humanity."

"Inspired by the determined struggle of the people of South Africa for a democratic, united, and nonracial country, we will press forward to fight internationally to bring down apartheid."

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Army officers attempt coup in Guatemala

In the wake of the defeat of the U.S.-backed contras by the people of Nicaragua, army officers in Guatemala supported by rightist businessmen attempted to overthrow the Guatemalan government. The Guatemalan defense minister, Gen. Héctor Alejandro Gramajo Morales, confirmed that two army officers attempted to lead a coup against the government of President Vinicio Cerezo on May 11.

Gramajo Morales reported that troops from two army bases attempted to march on the capital. The coup fizzled as key units in the capital city failed to support it. The mutinous troops and their officers were later convinced by senior military officers to return to their bases.

In his statement Gramajo Morales downplayed the coup attempt, referring to it simply as "acts of indiscipline." Neither the officers nor the troops involved will face punishment, he said.

The coup attempt came after several months of harsh criticism of the government by rightist businessmen and politicians. They have angrily opposed tax increases, modest efforts to begin a land-redistribution program, and negotiations with guerrilla organizations that have been fighting a succession of military governments for 27 years.

The military took control of the country with the help of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in a 1954 coup against the government of Jacobo Arbenz. The Arbenz government initiated a number of democratic measures, including land reform, that struck at the vast holdings of the United Fruit Company. John Foster Dulles, then U.S. secretary of state, was also a lawyer for and major stockholder in the company.

Nigerian unions end nationwide strikes

Leaders of the Nigerian Labour Congress have agreed to suspend nationwide strikes, which began the last week in April against a 3 percent increase in fuel prices. Sporadic protests against the increase began in early April. At least six people were killed in the northern city of Jos in protest against the price raise.

On April 18 five industrial unions in Plateau State began a strike to protest the killings. Subsequent strikes occurred in Katsina, Kwara, Kaduna, Sokoto, and Kano states.

Student protests have been widespread. In response the government closed 30 schools and universities indefinitely.

On April 24 the inspector-general of the police, Alhaji Muhammadu Gambo, announced a nationwide ban on all demonstrations and placed the police throughout the country on alert.

But on April 30 the national airport was closed as the strikes and protests spread to Lagos, the capital. Transportation in the city was severely curtailed as bus drivers joined the protest. Thousands of workers in Kano were dismissed when they stayed away from work. According to the official News Agency of Nigeria two top leaders of the country's rail union were arrested.

The April 30 *Guardian* of London reported that opposition to the fuel price increase jeopardizes government efforts to reach agreement with the International Monetary Fund on economic policy. A previous agreement with the IMF lapsed in January.

Duvaliers may face trial for stolen funds

A court of appeals in Aix-en-Provence, France, has ruled that it may hear a Haitian government's suit against Jean-Claude Duvalier. The court set a hearing date of June 27. Duvalier has been charged with stealing \$120 million from state funds.

Attorney Yann Colin explained that the Haitian government had fought to get the suit tried in France because, a judgement in Haiti "no matter how justifiable, would have all the difficulties in the world in being executed in another country." It remains unclear, however, whether the current Haitian government, headed by President Leslie Manigat, will wholeheartedly follow through in pursuing the suit.

The Duvaliers are secluded in a villa in the south of France. The villa, owned by Saudi billionaire Adnan Khashoggi, has been loaned to the Duvaliers rent free.

CALIFORNIA

Berkeley

Bay Area Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua. With John Stockwell, Elisabeth Linder, Brian Willson, Carolyn Stevens. Sat., May 21, 7 p.m. Berkeley Community Theater, 1930 Allston Way. Donation: \$7. Sponsor: Bay Area Veterans Convoy, Nicaragua Information Center, National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee. For more information call (415) 285-8610.

Oakland

Creationism versus Science. How every scientific advance for last 100 years contradicted myth of creationism. Speaker: Jeff Hamill, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union Local 1-5, Chevron Oil. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 28, 7:30 p.m.; dinner, 6 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$2; dinner, \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

Gala Socialist Campaign Picnic. Sun., May 29, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lake Pemesal (Big Rock campsite off Broadway Terrace entrance). Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

San Francisco

A Song for Peace in Nicaragua. A concert with Lichi Fuentes and band. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th. Donation: \$8, \$10 at door. Sponsors: Maestros por la Paz, La Peña Cultural Center. For more information call (415) 863-3778.

Rally to Defend Democratic Rights. Celebrate the victory in the lawsuit against FBI crimes. Defend the victims of new government attacks. Speakers: Mark Curtis, victim of police beating and frame-up in Des Moines, Iowa; Mike Davis, Northwest regional director, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES); Bassam Shihadeh, Palestine Solidarity Committee; Melba Maldonado, Bay Area Committee to Defend the Puerto Rican Hartford 15; Malik Miah, National Committee member, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., May 22, 6 p.m. ILWU Local 6, 255 9th St. (between Folsom and Howard). Sponsor: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

Environmental brigades to Nicaragua

Help replant the rain forest!

**Three brigades:
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See and learn about Nicaragua firsthand while helping plant trees for 4 weeks. Partial scholarships available.

For more information write or call:

Nicaragua Information Center
2103 Woolsey Street
Berkeley, Calif. 94705
(415) 549-1387

The Socialist Campaign Presents a Program to Fight for Jobs, Racial Justice, Peace.

Speaker: Steven Fuchs, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 5th C.D. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 28, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

Support the Palestinian Uprising! An evening in solidarity with the people of Palestine. Speakers: Ibrahim Abu Lughod, Palestine National Council member, author, professor, Northwestern University; Barbara Lubin, member of delegation to West Bank and Gaza. Fri., June 3, 7:30 p.m. First Unitarian Church (Franklin at Geary). Donation: \$3-5. Sponsor: Coalition to Support the Palestinian Uprising. For more information call (415) 861-1552.

National Day of Protest to End Israeli Occupation. March and rally. Sat., June 4. Assemble 11:30 a.m. at United Nations Plaza, march at noon, 1 p.m. rally at Union Square. For more information call Palestine Solidarity Committee (415) 861-1552.

Peace Day. West Coast march and rally for Peace, Jobs, Justice at home and abroad to mark the United Nations Third Special Session on Disarmament. Sat., June 11. Assemble 11 a.m. at UN Plaza (near Civic Center BART), march 12 noon, rally 1 p.m. at Union Square. Sponsor: Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice. For more information call (415) 626-8053.

CONNECTICUT

Hartford

Vigil in Support of Puerto Rican Independence Political Prisoners and the Ohio Seven. Sun., May 22, 3-4 p.m. Hartford Federal Detention Center, Weston Rd. For more information call (413) 733-0565 (Massachusetts) or (212) 969-0448 (New York).

FLORIDA

Miami

Socialist Educational Weekend. "Rally in Support of Self-determination for Palestine." Sat., June 4, 7:30 p.m. Speakers to be announced.

History of the Palestinian Liberation Struggle. Two classes. "Roots of the Crisis." Sun., June 5, 1 p.m.; "Current Upurge: Youth in the Frontline of Battle." Sun., June 5, 3 p.m. Classes by Fred Feldman, *Militant* staff writer. All events held at 137 NE 54th St. Translation to Spanish. Donation: \$2 per event, or \$5 for weekend. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Fight for Immigrant Rights. A panel presentation. Speakers: Marian Carr, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431; others. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

Seven Months After the Stock Market Crash: What Lies Ahead for Working People? Speaker: Norton Sandler, *Militant* circulation director. Sat., May 28, 8 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

U.S. Politics Today: New Openings Emerging for Workers and Farmers. Class by Norton Sandler. Sun., May 29, 10:30 a.m. 2125 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsored by Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

Cookout and Fundraiser for Mark Curtis. Sun., May 29, 1 p.m. To be held at nearby farm. Meet at Pathfinder Books, 2105 Forest. Sponsored by Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Spring Party: Barbecue and Picnic. Meet Elizabeth Soares, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in 9th C.D. Sun., May 29, 12 noon. Houghton Pond in the Blue Hills Reservation. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (617) 247-6772 or 524-2465.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

An Action Program to Fight for the Rights of Workers and Farmers. Hear James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Socialist Educational Weekend. Two classes. "How the Economic Crisis is Affecting Workers in Other Countries" Why working people in the U.S. should oppose "Buy American" campaigns and join the fight to cancel the debt of the Third World countries. Speaker: Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., May 21, 2 p.m. "Yes to Affirmative Action! Defend Abortion Rights!" Why the fight for women's rights is in the interests of all working people. Speaker: Natasha Terlexis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 4th C.D. Sun., May 22, noon. All events at 508 N Snelling Ave. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Young Socialist Alliance Holiday Cookout. Sun., May 29. For rides, information, and directions call (612) 645-1674.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Malcolm X's Ideas for Today. Video film, *Malcolm X: the Struggle for Freedom*, and tape of the last message of Malcolm X. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Palestine and the Fight for Arab Liberation. Speaker: Fred Feldman, *Militant* staff writer. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 20, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

The New Taller Fundraising Fiesta. Live! The Caribbean rhythms of "Sakad," hot Haitian dance band. Also featuring D.J. Will K. Wilkins of WBAI. Sat., May 21, 8:30 p.m. First live set 10 p.m. The Taller Latino-americano, 63 2nd St. between 1st-2nd Ave. Donation: \$8.

Spring Picnic and Softball Game. Sun., May 29, 2 p.m. Van Cortland Park, 233rd St. and Jerome Ave. (on the No. 1 train). Donation: \$5. Sponsor: New York Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (212) 219-3679.

AIDS Candlelight Vigil. Union Square, Broadway at E 17th St. Mon., May 30, 7 p.m. Sponsor: AIDS Resource Center. For more information call (212) 481-1270.

National Day of Protest to End Israeli Occupation. Demonstrate, Sat., June 4. Assemble 12 noon at army recruiting station (43rd and Broadway); march 1 p.m. down Broadway past Israeli government offices; rally 3 p.m. Union Square. Sponsor: Palestine Solidarity Committee. For more information call (212) 557-5410.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Legalized Murder: Stop the Death Penalty. Panel discussion with representative of Prison and Jail Project. Sun., June 5, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor

London Rally for Pathfinder Bookstore Fund

Sat., May 28. 7:30 p.m.
Sir William Collins School
Charrington Street
London NW 1

Speakers:

Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president

Representative of African National Congress

Jonathan Silberman, Pathfinder Bookshop Fund

Proceeds will go toward opening Pathfinder Bookshop in London.
Dinner will be served before rally and social will follow.

Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OREGON

Portland

El Salvador Today. Speakers: Mercedes Salgado, representative of Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front; David Fierberg, district organizer for Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), just returned from El Salvador; Phil Kavan, Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, visited El Salvador in January. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Current Stage of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Sat., June 4, 7 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

TEXAS

Houston

Report from Nicaragua. Slide presentation by activist recently returned from Nicaragua. Sat., May 28, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Matewan. A film on the fight to organize the coalfields in 1920. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Rally and Gala for Nicaraguan Trade Unionists. Sat., May 28, 7 p.m. Machinists' Hall, 1300 Connecticut Ave. NW. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Washington Area Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean. For more information call (202) 234-9286.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

The Crisis Facing Working People: A Program to Fight Back. Speakers: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president; Patricia Grogan, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sun., May 22, Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Wisconsin Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Above and beyond the call of duty — The World Health Organization bestowed two medals



Harry Ring

on Fidel Castro for giving up his famed cigar and thereby setting an example for the Cuban people.

Tear gas and a baseball bat? — Chaim Helfgott, a former Israeli tank commander, is now successfully collecting Third World

business debts. "Other bankers," he observes, "don't believe they can get any money from Third World borrowers. But that's a state of mind. We want cash and we won't take 10 percent." He says he's not averse to showing his "ugly side."

Muck-prone — Mr. Helfgott, who says, "I like the dirty stuff because it's more challenging," doesn't owe all his success to his training in the Israeli army. He also was a credit-recovery lawyer in Philadelphia.

Who says we need a minimum wage — A survey of 339 companies showed that the average salary of chief executives in-

creased 48 percent last year, to \$1.8 million.

Obviously he's a fast worker — Peter Allen, chief exec at Canada's Lac Minerals, drew \$3,849,160 last year. It was estimated that a wage earner getting the Canadian average of \$453.76 a week would have to sweat 163 years to earn that much.

It's so reassuring — The Philadelphia Electric Co. said "hairline" cracks have been found in the Unit 3 reactor of the Peach Bottom nuclear plant, which was closed last year for safety violations. The cracks are similar to ones in Unit 2, which are being fixed even though it's not neces-

sary safetywise, a spokesperson said.

Yuppie! — From FAO Schwarz: "Their first perfume — introducing the first French fragrance pour les enfants... eau de toilette, \$30; splash, \$30; soap, \$8... FAO. We're serious about play."

Long enough to write a check — Linus Coraggio, a New York sculptor, fashions furniture out of junk metal. Like a chair with "No Parking" signs for seat and back, \$800. He concedes the chair isn't comfortable, but assures, "People in New York don't sit very long anyway."

Be it ever so 'umble — Miami

banker Robert Marlin snapped up a top-floor pad in a Bal Harbour condo for \$3.5 million. It's a roomy apartment, plus private rooftop pool, cabana, and jogging path. It will be designed "to take care of our personal needs," the moneyman explained.

Value judgement? — *Video Dog*, a tape offering "the experience of owning a pet without the mess and inconvenience." Or, for the same price, the same vicarious experience with *Video Baby*.

Now don't be sensitive — "It comes through to me that Don Regan doesn't really like me." — Nancy Reagan.

Behind Nicaraguan construction workers' strike

Continued from front page

Ministry of Labor declared it illegal on the grounds that the CGTi had not followed arbitration procedures required by law.

As the strike wore on, the government began to dismiss strikers and hire replacements. The CST organized hundreds of its members to go to the affected job sites and take the place of the strikers.

However, there were no arrests or other sanctions imposed on the striking unionists. The government continued to appeal to striking workers to return to their jobs and promised there would be no reprisals of any kind. Opposition-led unions were allowed to organize street demonstrations in support of the strike, as long as they requested permits in advance. For weeks, small groups of strikers stood at busy traffic intersections, soliciting money from passing motorists.

The CST sent delegations to talk with strikers, trying to convince them that even if their demands were just, they should return to work. They also stressed that the CGTi leaders were interested only in provoking confrontations with the government.

The CSTers pointed out that their union was negotiating over wage and production norms. On April 13, some 500 CST construction workers marched on the Ministry of Labor in Managua to demand speedy answers to their demands. One week later, the government agreed to subsidized meals, pay differentials for those working away from their hometown, and a 30 percent bonus for workers exceeding their production quota.

While the strike was a major topic of public discussion and debate, there was no visible outpouring of support for the action among other workers. No strikes began in

other industries, and the number of construction workers who were off the job did not grow. Several marches held by opposition-led unions during the strike drew a few thousand people, no larger than previous antigovernment demonstrations they have organized.

Within a few weeks, more strikers had returned to work. In one case, 30 CGTi members announced publicly that they were returning to the job and applying for membership in the CST construction union.

There was one incident where strong-arm tactics were used against strike organizers. On March 3, several hundred CST members barged into a union hall where a strike-support meeting was under way. Although no physical altercations occurred, the CSTers occupied the hall for several hours and prevented a prostrike march from taking place.

By late April, the work stoppage was effectively over. Major construction sites were working normally, and many strikers had returned to work. The government fired 500 who remained out.

The Ministry of Labor maintained a standing offer to find jobs for any striker who wanted to work again. By mid-May, 250 of the fired workers had been rehired.

Thirty-eight workers and opposition party activists started a hunger strike April 25 in the CGTi headquarters in Managua. With the construction strike effectively over, the new protest was organized to get coverage in the press — both foreign and domestic — and to provide a new rallying point for the anti-Sandinista opposition bloc.

Opposition party activists repeatedly blocked traffic on the busy street in front of the CGTi hall in an attempt to force the police to arrest them. Their behavior was clearly aimed at precipitating violent clashes with the police.

Each time, the police cleared the street and arrested some of the participants, though without injuring anyone. In all, during the 10-day hunger strike, 45 people were arrested and charged with disturbing the peace.

The confrontations received wide coverage in both the Nicaraguan and foreign press. On April 29 the government tried to restrict coverage of the hunger strike by cordoning off the CGTi hall and denying access to all except medical personnel and union leaders.

On May 3 several private radio stations carried stories claiming that police had killed one arrested striker. The CGTi even delivered a coffin to the worker's family.

Shortly thereafter, however, the police presented the supposed victim, alive and unharmed, at a press conference. The government then ordered four radio news programs closed for a week for "deliberately broadcasting false reports and inciting disorders."

On May 4, leaders of 14 opposition parties announced they were going to hold a press conference in the CGTi hall, in defiance of the government order restricting access to the building. However they were detained by police while they met in the offices of the Social Democratic Party, before starting their action. Once at police headquarters, Chief of Police Doris Tijerino lectured them, warning against breaking the law. The opposition leaders were then released.

The CGTi called off the hunger strike on May 5, claiming that the government had agreed to resume negotiations on their wage demands. Government officials denied any agreement.

As the hunger strikers left the CGTi hall, the police cordon was removed. Shortly after, all those who had been arrested during the street confrontations were released.

Support builds for June 11

Continued from front page

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and many other groups have also endorsed.

The sponsors also include Mayor Anthony Cucci of Jersey City, New Jersey.

Political organizations backing the action include the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Communist Party, National Rainbow Coalition, Socialist Workers Party, Democratic Socialists of America, Young Communist League, and Young Socialist Alliance.

The protests come as Washington continues to use military force, economic embargos, and other acts of aggression to impose its will on peoples in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In the wake of the defeat of the contras by Nicaragua, the U.S. government is continuing its economic embargo against Nicaragua and refusing to provide the economic aid it desperately needs.

Washington has intervened on the side of the Iraqi government in its war with Iran by building up a massive armada in the Persian Gulf. Incidents resulting from the U.S. presence have been used as pretexts for U.S. military attacks on Iranian forces.

Washington continues to back the apartheid regime in South Africa which has invaded Angola with thousands of troops.

And the U.S. government backs Israel as it conducts raids into Lebanon and wages war against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The threat that the U.S. rulers, or their Israeli and South African allies, may resort to the use of nuclear weapons stems from their escalation of conflicts like these.

From the calls the *Militant* made to different cities, it looks as though the number of buses and trains rolling into Manhattan for the march is likely to be substantial.

Mike Morand of the June 11 Coalition in New Haven says it is campaigning to fill a train to New York City. "We have a good coalition going in the high schools here, involving Black, white, and Hispanic students, and they are very enthusiastic. We have just begun organizing, and we have reservations from 30 students at city high schools and

another 30 from suburban high schools."

Morand said that three locals of the International Association of Machinists at Pratt and Whitney plants in the New Haven area are also helping to fill the train, in addition to a wide range of antiwar and anti-nuclear groups.

Hartford, Connecticut, antiwar activist Bruce Martin reported that 12 buses have been reserved there.

The Greater Boston June 11 campaign has reserved 15 buses so far. John Hughes of the Commission on Catholic Community Action in Cleveland told the *Militant* that eight buses have been reserved there.

Trainloads of participants are being organized to come in from many parts of New Jersey and upstate New York.

Cathy Pines, a staff member of the SSD-III coalition in New York, said that groups are organizing for the action here from as far away as Florida and Minneapolis.

The event in San Francisco is being built by activists across the western United States, including groups in Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Portland, Seattle, and Los Angeles.

Staff member Pines said that protests coinciding with the June 11 rallies have been scheduled in Japan, Canada, Denmark, France, Sweden, and other countries.

The International Working Group, associated with the SSD-III coalition, is organizing an international peace conference in New York City on June 9. Delegations are expected from Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. Delegations will participate from Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Soviet Union, Switzerland, Tahiti, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Zaire as well. Most of the delegates will also be present as guests at the June 11 protest here.

Hundreds of Japanese organizations and individuals joined prominent U.S. foes of nuclear weapons in signing a full-page advertisement supporting the New York City protest. The ad appeared in the May 15 *New York Times*.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢
May 26, 1978

The Vietnamese government has dealt a deathblow to capitalist control of trade in the south. A sweeping decree March 24 did away with some 30,000 major capitalist trading operations. Small businessmen and retailers were allowed to reopen after a two-day shutdown.

Previously, 70 percent of the trade in the south had been in private hands. The *Far Eastern Economic Review* says that the action "in one swoop brings the southern economy to a closer alignment with that of the socialist north."

Earlier efforts to bring trade under control without actually abolishing capitalist ownership had been unsuccessful.

THE MILITANT
Published in the interests of the Working People
May 27, 1963 Price 10¢

May 22 — The events in Birmingham,

Alabama, have precipitated a new wave of mass civil rights demonstrations in cities across the South, including Knoxville and Nashville, Tennessee; Greensboro and Durham, North Carolina; and Cambridge, Maryland. In addition, the well-organized, militant boycott movement in Jackson, Mississippi, is preparing "intense direct action" if desegregation is not begun "forthwith" in Mississippi's biggest city.

More than 100 high school and college-age Negroes have been arrested in Knoxville since May 10 for demonstrating at a movie theater. In Nashville, some 1,000 Negro teenagers demonstrated in the downtown area and groups of them defended themselves when attacked by racists. Nashville Mayor Ben West subsequently appointed a biracial committee to work out further desegregation, thus granting one of the movement's chief demands.

At Durham, some 2,000 Negroes gathered outside city hall May 20. The newly-elected administration asked for two week's time to attempt a solution to demands for further desegregation. The Negroes refused, scattered over the downtown area, and staged sit-ins. About 1,000 were arrested.

Court: cops can paw your garbage

In a reactionary blow to the constitutional right to privacy, the Supreme Court ruled May 16 that once you put your garbage out for collection, the cops have free reign to root through it.

According to the court majority, such intrusive actions do not violate your Fourth Amendment right not to be subjected to illegal search.

Justices William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall dissented, and Anthony Kennedy, President Ronald Reagan's most recent appointee, did not participate in the 6-to-2 decision.

Arguing for the majority, Justice Byron White asserted that it's "common knowledge" that once you put your garbage out, anyone can look into it. Therefore, he reasoned, it's unreasonable to expect any privacy.

In his dissent, Justice Brennan castigated the majority decision as painting "a grim picture of our society."

"It depicts a society," he said, "in which local authorities may command their citizens to dispose of their personal effects in the manner least protective of 'the sanctity of the home and the privacies of life,' and then monitor them arbitrarily and without judicial oversight."

The majority opinion contends that garbage bags left where they "are readily accessible to animals, children, scavenger, snoop, and other members of the public" should also be fair game for the cops. But the big difference is that cops, in their capacity as agents of the government, sift through trash to penalize or victimize private individuals.

In the current case, the Supreme Court upheld Laguna Beach, California, cops who collected evidence for a drug bust by pawing through a family's garbage.

"Trash covers" — as the cops call their investigations of garbage — are standard operating procedures in attempts to disrupt the political activities of individuals and organizations that the government doesn't agree with.

The evidence in the suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against the FBI and other political police agencies, which the socialists won, showed that government informers spent a lot of time looking through the socialists' garbage. They were especially interested in lists of members and financial contributors.

According to a summary of the informers' illegal activities that is part of the record in the case, "A member-informant repeatedly supplied the FBI with trash from an SWP branch for a period of years in the 1950s. The trash included, *inter alia* [among other things], something the FBI described as the key to the Party membership code."

In another example, the FBI approached a janitor who worked in the building of one of the SWP's local headquarters. "The informant offered to provide the FBI with SWP-YSA trash and did so."

"The local FBI bureau requested permission to use this informant on a regular basis, probably as a so-called 'trash cover.'"

In his ruling on the case, Judge Thomas Griesa said the procurement of membership lists by informers, including from the garbage, was illegal — as was the use of informers in general — and violated the socialists' right to privacy.

Defending the Supreme Court ruling, Justice White noted that the present decision builds on previous ones that also curbed Fourth Amendment rights.

He cited the high court's ruling that upheld the right of cops to spy on the backyard of a home from an airplane.

And he pointed to a case where the court ruled that cops do not violate Fourth Amendment rights by using an electronic device to record telephone numbers when they're dialed. Since the phone company also does this, the court contended cops have the right to do it too.

Commenting on the current decision, Eric Sirulnik, a law professor at George Washington University, observed:

"The home is still the castle, but now we're learning that the moat doesn't belong, the fields don't belong, and now the garbage heap in the back doesn't belong."

His point is well-taken. The government wages an unceasing effort to encroach on the areas of private activities the government can't stick its nose into. The decision to sanction "trash covers" is a blow to the right of working people to be left alone free from government interference. And it's a reminder that unless we fight to extend, strengthen, and defend our rights, we will lose them.

Set to bury Shoreham nuke plant

The Shoreham nuclear power plant, bitterly opposed by Long Island residents for more than a decade, is headed for the scrap heap.

New York State officials and the Long Island Lighting Co. (Lilco) said May 11 that they had reached "agreement in principle" to abandon the plant.

Lilco has not totally given up. In a May 16 advertisement, it asserted it would continue to press for a federal license to operate the plant.

However, this may be calculated to jack up even higher the price Long Islanders will pay to get the plant buried.

If Shoreham is shut down, it will be the first U.S. nuclear power plant to be scrapped after it was completed and before it began operating.

The plant is located in Shoreham, a village 55 miles from New York. Situated on the north shore of Long Island, an accident would leave only two possible escape routes, either by water or the Long Island Expressway, notorious for its bumper-to-bumper traffic in everyday commuting.

The demise of Shoreham will be a setback for the nuclear industry and a victory for antinuclear forces.

Since 1975, a total of 88 nuke plants have been abandoned or canceled, and there hasn't been an order for a new one since 1978.

In proportion to kilowatt capacity, Shoreham has been the most expensive nuclear power plant ever built in the United States. Over the years, Long Island residents have been ripped off regularly and unmercifully to pay for it. Rate hikes have neared the \$1 billion mark.

Current Lilco rates are the second highest in the nation, topped only by New York's Con Edison.

While the current plan to scrap Shoreham is surely to be welcomed, the reported terms of the bailout deal being offered Lilco are outrageous.

The proposed settlement arrived at by the administration of Gov. Mario Cuomo will assure Lilco an annual, minimal rate increase of 4 to 5 percent a year for a decade.

Also, Lilco would be allowed a \$2.5 billion tax write-off to cover its losses. This means it would pay no federal taxes for at least a decade.

Stockholder dividends, suspended in 1984, would resume next year.

The Cuomo package will stir anger among the many Long Islanders who have fought Lilco's stubborn drive to impose the potentially lethal white elephant on them.

A recent Long Island poll showed 75 percent opposed to Shoreham. Sentiment has been so strong that local politicians have been forced into an antinuke posture.

In the wake of the near meltdown at Three Mile Island in 1979, the federal government moved to placate antinuclear sentiment with a regulation that no plant could go on line until a practical evacuation procedure had been developed.

Opposition forces on Long Island turned this into a powerful weapon against Shoreham. Under massive pressure, local officials accepted the common-sense finding that there was no practical way to evacuate the Shoreham area, and refused to participate in concocting an evacuation plan.

Public protests were dramatic. In June 1979, some two months after the Three Mile Island accident, a demonstration was called at Shoreham. Organizers expected 2,000 participants. On a rainy Sunday, 15,000 people turned out.

The opposition deepened with the disastrous 1986 blowout at the Soviet Chernobyl plant. Chernobyl underlined that it could happen anywhere.

The plan to bury Shoreham was denounced in a May 13 *New York Times* editorial, which angrily declared it a "folly [that] could threaten the nation's security, not just Long Island's, by further eroding public confidence in nuclear power."

Public confidence is already deeply eroded, and rightly so.

Large numbers of people have come to recognize that every nuclear plant is a ticking time bomb, an accident waiting to happen.

When the *Times* speaks of the demise of Shoreham as a threat to the "nation's security," it really means a threat to Washington's nuclear weapons buildup, which threatens all humanity. The Shoreham victory does in fact strike a blow at the ominous nuclear arsenal. That, too, is all to the good.

The SWP and Marxist continuity

BY DOUG JENNESS

Last week I suggested reading two books on *Revolutionary Continuity: Marxist Leadership in the U.S.*, by Farrell Dobbs, as a useful way to begin studying the Socialist Workers Party's political heritage and to better understand what the SWP is and what it stands for today.

It may seem a bit strange to propose learning about a party formed in 1938 by starting off with two volumes that deal with the years between 1848 and 1922. But the

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

main themes developed by Dobbs, who was a long-time leader of the SWP and a leader of the Midwest Teamsters' struggles in the 1930s, help to underscore the relevance of these books.

In the introduction to the first volume, Dobbs noted that he would "trace three major threads through the history of the workers' movement in this country and its revolutionary continuity: (1) the fight for the economic organization of the working class into trade unions, and for organization along industrial rather than craft lines; (2) the fight for political and social consciousness and action by the workers' movement; and (3) the fight for the independent political organization of the working class, a labor party, to advance its interests and those of its allies against the interests of the ruling capitalist minority."

Dobbs said that what ties these threads together are the efforts by the Marxist wing of the workers' movement to build a working-class revolutionary party — that is, to assemble the forces "needed to lead the fight to end capitalist rule, establish a workers' and farmers' government, and open the road to a socialist order."

This is precisely what the SWP has been striving to do for 50 years. The SWP stands on the shoulders of its predecessors and is stronger because it is linked to and draws on their accumulated class-struggle experience. This is what Marxism is — the generalization of the strategic lessons learned by succeeding generations over the course of the class struggle as working people strive to replace capitalist rule with their own. And the line connecting these successive series of lessons is what Dobbs referred to as "revolutionary continuity."

Dobbs noted that a key turning point for revolutionary-minded workers in the United States and other countries was the October 1917 Russian revolution. This momentous event offered an opportunity to pick up in a direct way the thread of continuity with the Marxist current that had been cut when Frederick Engels died in 1895.

Engels and Karl Marx, who for the first time put communism on a scientific basis, had for decades helped to aid working-class organizations in the United States in charting a revolutionary course. But after Engels' death this continuity was virtually unknown and without influence in the United States until the Bolsheviks, who under Lenin's leadership had continued the fight for Marxism, led the Russian workers and peasants to power.

Revolutionists inspired by the example of the Russian revolution and its leadership were determined to construct a communist party. They wanted to build in the United States the kind of party that had led working people to power for the first time.

They didn't know how to go about this, and most of them brought a legacy of wrong conceptions with them into this process. But the discussions and decisions of the Communist International and consultations with its leaders, from the time it was set up in 1919 until 1924 when Lenin died, were a constant aid to these pioneers of communism in the United States.

The extent, in their initial years, that these revolutionary workers succeeded or failed in learning and applying the lessons of revolutionary continuity that the Comintern leaders were trying to impart is the subject of Dobbs' second volume on revolutionary continuity, *Birth of the Communist Movement: 1918-1922*.

The important process of education and political help from the Bolshevik-led Communist International was cut short after Lenin's death. This was the result of the mounting demoralization and political retreat of a section of Russia's working people to which the majority of the Soviet Communist Party adapted. Marxism was tossed overboard and bureaucratization, corruption, and a nationalist outlook took over.

This contributed to the degeneration of the Communist International and the young Communist parties in other countries. In the United States those who continued on the communist course they had started out on when they founded the party ran into increasing obstacles and finally were expelled from the Communist Party in 1928.

Among their numbers were founding leaders of the CP with years of experience in the labor movement. Internationally, they linked up with others fighting to keep on the communist course.

It was the activity of these communist fighters in the labor movement over the next decade that led to the formation of the SWP and to its living link with the historical fight for Marxism.

Cover-up of Eastern Airlines safety violations

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

In April the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began what was supposed to be a thorough safety inspection of all aircraft controlled by Eastern and Continental airlines, the two major subsidiaries of Texas Air Corp.

At the same time, the Department of Transportation announced an investigation of Texas Air's management and finances. The investigation is to include the transfer

UNION TALK

of Eastern assets, such as planes and landing slots, to Continental and other Texas Air subsidiaries.

These moves came after a barrage of media reports critical of Texas Air's operations. More than 150 congresspeople asked for such an investigation.

Safety campaigns by the unions at Eastern are one reason for the attention focused on Texas Air, the largest airline company in the United States. The "Max Safety" effort by the Air Line Pilots Association, for example, has exposed thousands of abuses by the company.

Pilots have been fired for refusing to fly planes they believed were not airworthy, and are pressured to exceed their flight time limits. Mechanics have also lost their jobs for making safety complaints. Flight attendants and others are made to work even when sick.

Texas Air's attacks on safety are directly tied to corporate efforts to break the unions at Eastern, especially the International Association of Machinists (IAM). This drive is being vocally spearheaded by Texas Air Chairman Frank Lorenzo, who engineered a phony bankruptcy

to destroy the unions at Continental in 1983.

On May 6 Eastern sued the pilots and machinists' unions for \$1.5 billion, charging they were trying to destroy the company through racketeering, fraud, and extortion.

Since the IAM's contract with Eastern expired last December, the company and union have been negotiating under federal mediation. Eastern is demanding major pay and benefit cuts, and work rule changes from the union. In addition, Machinist union members have become targets for systematic company harassment.

Hundreds of IAM members have been fired, given days off or had other disciplinary action taken against them. On a single day earlier this year, three ramp service workers in Miami with an average of 20 years seniority were fired for "not picking up garbage" in their work area.

The company is also using layoffs to intimidate workers, weaken the union, and force speed-up and overtime on remaining workers.

Union and nonunion workers alike at Eastern were heartened by the announcement of the FAA and Department of Transportation investigations, and by the recent federal court decision blocking Eastern's sale of its profitable Air Shuttle operations to a newly formed Texas Air subsidiary.

The optimism soon wore off, however. The FAA grounded some planes, but said that no major problems were found and that union grievances were unjustified. The FAA's "in-depth" inspections were in fact little more than walks around the aircrafts, and checking some paperwork. The FAA inspectors at New York's Kennedy and LaGuardia airports in fact are both former supervisors at Eastern.

The IAM leadership's response has been to look to the courts, government agencies, and Congress for solutions. The cover-up by the FAA of Eastern's safety violations is just the latest example of why this approach doesn't work.

The idea of an employee buyout of the airline is also being promoted as a possible way to keep Eastern afloat and save the workers' jobs. In reality, however, capitalist financiers like T. Boone Pickens will help organize an employee buyout plan only if they can get substantial concessions from the workers — exactly what we're fighting against.

More workers at Eastern are beginning to question these approaches, and to see the need for us to organize and mobilize independently to fight against Eastern's attacks, as well as government and court collusion with the company. "It's time for us to depend on ourselves," said one aircraft servicer, "and not others to fight for us."

This is headed in the right direction.

We also need to see our response to Eastern's attacks in a broader way.

There simply aren't any solutions that we at Eastern are going to reach to the question of how to defend our jobs, wages, and working conditions, in isolation from the rest of the union movement and working class as a whole. We have to confront the fact that our biggest challenge, regardless of what company we work for, is developing a perspective that can unify working people in a fight to protect ourselves from the worsening conditions we face.

Ernie Mailhot is an aircraft servicer for Eastern Airlines at Kennedy Airport in New York, and a member of the IAM Local Lodge 1894.

LETTERS

Protest against racism

Students at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, have been boycotting classes this week to protest racist harassment of Black students, and the administration's refusal to take the problem seriously.

The latest incident occurred April 1, when two white students were caught pounding on the wall of a Black student's dorm room and shouting racist epithets. The case was taken to the University Judicial Board, but the board recommended only that the two students be suspended for one semester, starting next fall. Sanctions such as this are often overturned or reduced on appeal.

The Black Student Union denounced the board's decision and launched a boycott of classes. Most of the head residents in campus dorms resigned in protest, and Black members of the university's track team refused to participate in meets. An April 11 rally of Black students and their supporters drew more than 400 people, and more than 700 have signed a petition against the ruling. The total enrollment at Denison is 2,200, including 77 Blacks.

BSU leaders emphasized that this was not an isolated event. Virtually all Black students can recall verbal abuse or threats directed at them.

Messages of support should be addressed to the Black Student Union, Denison University, Granville, Ohio 43023, and protests to President Andrew De Rocco at the same address.

Dan Dickson
Columbus, Ohio

Finest

The *Militant* is one of the finest newspapers I have read. It tells the truth of the union workers' struggle for jobs with dignity in this country and around the world.

The *Militant's* coverage of the papermakers' strike against International Paper Co. for its unjust concession demands in Jay, Maine; Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; Mobile, Alabama; and De Pere, Wisconsin, has been great. Corporate greed should be outlawed in this country.

My brothers and sisters of Jay, Maine, have been a great inspiration for all New England locals of the United Paperworkers International Union. I am so appreciative of the many trade unions who have

supported the papermakers across this country. We as union members have become too complacent over the years. Only a few cared about attending union meetings and those few were the ones that ran the union.

However, we still have paperworkers who are against the strike because they think the companies give them their seniority rights, vacations, and raises. That is just not the case. Some people in my local complain about the rate of pay the Jay, Maine, workers make per hour and that is one of the reasons they will not support the strikers.

My answer to them is that the Jay, Maine, negotiating committee has done a great job for their people at the table and they have given up a lot as well themselves. If the strikers in Jay would have accepted the company's final offer, they would have put themselves into the street and lost their seniority and other job rights.

Some of my people think they are too important to Hammermill/International Paper and that the company won't demand any concessions from us 15 months from now. We are not better, we are all numbers to the company. We have also been told that the International Paper Group wants our time-and-a-half and double-time pay at the next contract negotiations.

If I am the president of UPIU Local 197, they are going to have one hell of a fight. I have asked the members to get their houses in order, pay up some bills in advance, and put some money away, just in case.

Yes, it all started with the air traffic controllers. All unions and their top leaders should have started getting their act together to protect their membership. Our leaders failure to do so has caused some hard times for our memberships.

Our union leaders must become militant to protect the membership, or get out of office. There should be a defense fund set up in all International unions to protect the members when they get into trouble trying to protect their jobs. That way workers may continue to enjoy the American dream and send their kids to college.

We will win this fight with International Paper no matter how long it takes.

In closing, the *Militant* is one

fine newspaper. It gets to the truth of the matter. Keep up the outstanding coverage throughout the world. I will be a subscriber for a long time.

Jim Jones
President UPIU Local 197
Westfield, Massachusetts

Tawana Brawley

I am serving a 48-year term for "attempted burglary." At my trial the district attorney went to great lengths to show the jury that I was a "cancer on society" that must be removed.

Well I wonder what in the hell that same district attorney would call the attackers of Tawana Brawley? Good old boys?

The high-ranking public officials of New York State evidently don't think that these attackers are vicious criminals, because if they did, no one would have to make any demands that justice be done.

This must not be simply forgotten about.

A prisoner
Rosharon, Texas

Lumbee Indians

"Indians are the only minorities in this country who have to prove their nationality when applying for minority scholarships," says Ruth Revels, director of the Guilford Native American Resource Center in Greensboro, North Carolina.

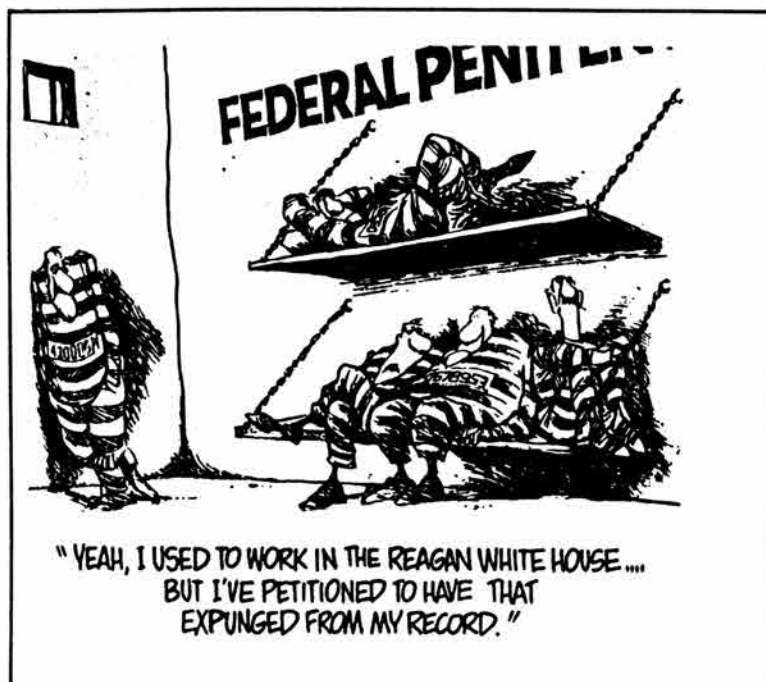
The Lumbee Indians in Robeson County, North Carolina, are once again petitioning the federal government for national recognition. They are the largest group of Indians east of the Mississippi.

Spearheaded by recently murdered attorney Julian Pierce and the Lumbee Regional Development Association in Pembroke, the three-volume petition presents to the Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal records and evidence of political and genealogical continuity.

If the petition is passed, the Lumbees could receive \$10 million a year for health care, education, housing, and small business assistance. There will be no individual award settlements.

"What are they afraid of?" says Greg Demery, an Indian student at Pembroke State University. "Maybe they think we will leave the reservation in which they forced us, and demand back the land that was stolen from us."

Paul Locklear
Pembroke, North Carolina



Farm rally

I recently participated in a rally of 100 people at the state capitol in Lansing, Michigan, called to draw attention to the effects on family farmers of the ongoing farm crisis and the fight for justice by the state's farm workers.

Most of the people there were working farmers from around the state. But there were also a number of laid-off auto workers, students from nearby Michigan State University, and a delegation from the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC).

Carrying signs saying "Parity, not charity," "A box of cereal costs \$1.89 but the farmer gets 5 cents," and waving FLOC flags, we were enthusiastic despite the cold weather.

The best-received speaker was FLOC President Baldemar Velasquez. "I'd like to say to you farmers who have lost your land," he began, "welcome to the bottom! Migrant farm workers have always been at the bottom and we can tell you there's one good thing about being on the bottom — there's no where else to go but up!"

Velasquez said the bottom line is that family farmers have the same problem farm workers do.

He said he hears a lot of talk about imports and import quotas on farm commodities. "Farmers tell me we need import restrictions on 'Mexican' tomatoes to protect 'American' tomatoes. Why? Mexicans are just poor working people. We need a strategy to work to-

gether with those poor workers in Mexico and fight against the companies that are exploiting us both," he said.

Kathie Fitzgerald
Detroit, Michigan

Pleasure to read

Last week I had the pleasure to read the recent issues of two magazines that I am sure each and every *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* reader would also enjoy.

The March issue of *Basta!* has two lively, probing discussion articles on the future of the sanctuary and solidarity movements. Also, there are articles that expose the use of secret police against democratic movements inside the United States.

The other periodical is the first issue of *Pan African Roots* (March 1) which features on the cover a report on the first International Conference for the Liberation of Indian Peoples of the Americas, held in Tripoli, Libya.

Pan African Roots is available from 334 E. 37th St., Chicago, Ill. 60653. *Basta!*'s address is 1020 S. Wabash, Rm. 680, Chicago, Ill. 60605-2215.

Nevin Siders
Columbus, Ohio

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Declining wages spark French strikes

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — Several strikes broke out prior to the recently concluded presidential elections in France, and spread as the voting approached. The strikes took place despite pressure from the leaders of the Communist and Socialist parties, who said they feared the effect that strikes would have on the outcome of the vote.

The walkouts were initiated by workers trying to make up for years of deteriorating wages.

The first to strike were the 1,500 auto workers at Chausson, a company owned half by Peugeot and half by Renault. The two Chausson plants in the Paris suburbs contain four assembly lines that produce small trucks for Peugeot and Renault.

The overwhelming majority of the workers are immigrants and do not have the right to vote in French elections.

The strikers, who demanded an immediate general pay raise equivalent to US \$175 per month, were able to shut down Chausson for five weeks. For the lowest-paid workers, winning the wage demand would have amounted to an increase of almost 20 percent.

The auto workers won more than \$17 per month, a one-time bonus of \$140, and part of the pay lost during the strike.

After suffering a long series of setbacks, most auto workers felt that this outcome represented a modest gain.

As this agreement was being negotiated, a strike began at the SNECMA plant next door, where aircraft engines are produced. The strike spread to include three SNECMA factories. The 4,000 strikers raised the demand of a \$262 increase in the monthly wage. No immigrants work at SNECMA, where employment is restricted to French citizens.

Striking workers at Chausson and SNECMA set up committees to involve members of different unions and nonunion workers employed at both companies.

(There is no union shop in France, and there is usually more than one union representing workers at a plant.) Large numbers of nonunion workers joined the strikes.

The walkouts were backed by both the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), associated with the Communist Party, and the French Democratic Confederation of Labor (CFDT), associated with the Socialist Party. In recent years cooperation between these federations has been rare.

Just before the first round of the presidential elections was held on April 24, 5,000 workers at the five Michelin tire factories in Clermont-Ferrand walked off the job. Outraged workers halted production after the bosses proposed a four-cent monthly wage increase. The strikers demanded a \$262 monthly raise.

Both the Michelin and SNECMA strikes continued past the second round of the presidential elections held May 8, which was won by Socialist Party candidate François Mitterrand. Negotiations with management are now being held.

Chausson and SNECMA workers sought solidarity from other workers. Chausson strikers went to the gate of a different factory each day to explain their strike and their demands. The same tactic was adopted by the strike committee at SNECMA.

Two weeks later, Air France workers for the first time held a joint demonstration with workers from Air Inter at Paris' Orly airport.

This was the second wave of strikes in France in a little over a year. In December 1986 and January 1987 a strike by railroad workers tied up transportation throughout France, inspiring walkouts by other public workers. The strike was against a company move to break up the negotiated wage scale by individualizing salaries.

In the current strikes, the unions have played a more active and supportive role in the strike committees and assemblies of workers than they did in the previous strikes.



François Mitterrand (left), Socialist presidential candidate, defeated Jacques Chirac, prime minister and leader of conservative Rally for the Republic, in May 8 French elections. Both defend government's racist immigration and colonial policies, and attacks on workers.



London gay rights march

BY RACHEL HARVEY

LONDON — Tens of thousands marched here April 30 against government attacks on gay rights. Organizers estimated that 50,000 people took part in the demonstration against Section 28 of the Local Government Act, making it by far the largest gay rights demonstration ever in Britain or anywhere in Europe.

Section 28, a new law recently introduced by Margaret Thatcher's government, makes it illegal for any local authority to "intentionally promote homosexuality" or fund others to do so; and it forbids the teaching in schools of homosexuality as "a pretended family relationship." Its vague wording means the legislation can be used as a catchall to victimize lesbian and gay employees of local authorities, attack balanced sex education, and ban funding for counseling services and help lines.

Messages of support were read from many trade unions, including from Norman Willis, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress. A delegation of striking ferry workers from the P&O shipping company in Dover attended the demonstration to support the marchers and collected money in support of their strike. Messages of support also came from solidarity groups all over Europe and from Australia, Canada,

and the United States. A speech from the Lesbian and Gay Democrats of Chicago, which was to have been read out at the rally, was impounded by British customs as it was brought over. Solidarity activists from Holland and West Germany described activities that had taken place in their countries in support of democratic rights for lesbians and gays in Britain.

A speaker from the campaign against Section 28 spoke of the need to make links with other campaigns against repressive legislation, such as new immigration laws, the antiabortion bill currently being debated in Parliament, and new laws on welfare benefits that will leave many people poorer.

Bernie Grant, one of the four Black members of Parliament, told the demonstrators, "Forget the MPs, forget the lords and ladies. They won't stop this section, you will. We have to stop the section out on the streets, in the community centers, in housing estates, in trade unions, in schools, in parents' associations. You are not just fighting for yourselves: Black people, women, lesbians and gay men, the disadvantaged are in a majority. They are trying to divide us. We will move forward from this demonstration more united."

The action followed marches of 10,000 in January and 20,000 in February.

Oil workers back jailed coal miners

BY JANICE LYNN

Some 200 oil and chemical workers from around the country recently expressed their support to five coal miners from Kentucky who are the victims of a government and coal company frame-up.

The miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), have been framed up on charges stemming from the 1984-85 strike against the A.T. Massey Coal Co. Four have been given long prison sentences and the fifth, Paul Smith, was acquitted and then rearrested. He faces a second trial.

The oil and chemical workers signed petitions and letters circulated in their workplaces to protest the jail terms meted out to the Kentucky miners. They explained that this was an attempt to intimidate all unionists from exercising their right to strike.

In addition, \$900 was raised in donations for the miners' legal expenses from the oil and chemical workers, members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers

union. The OCAW and UMWA recently carried out a cooperative negotiating effort in the 1988 contract talks and had been carrying out merger discussions. Many OCAW members have become interested in miners' struggles.

One California oil worker commented that he would much rather give a contribution to defend a fellow unionist at war against the company than to see his money go to the contras in Nicaragua.

In a thank-you letter to New Jersey OCAW members, framed-up miner Donnie Thomsbury, president of UMWA Local 2496, wrote from prison, "Please spread my story and use it to help. Don't let another brother or you be done the way I was and am being done."

Contributions can be sent to Citizens for Justice, P.O. Box 8, Canada, Ky. 41519.

Janice Lynn is a member of OCAW Local 8-575 in Rahway, New Jersey.

British seafarers press fight

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — A meeting here of some 1,000 seafarers overwhelmingly endorsed a proposal to continue their strike, now in its 15th week, against P&O European Ferry Co. This decision came despite the body blow delivered to the strike when the union's leadership called off nationwide solidarity actions in favor of throwing support behind Sealink in its commercial war against P&O. Both companies compete for traffic between Britain and continental Europe.

Solidarity action by the union had led the courts to seize all the union's assets under the terms of the Conservative government's antiunion laws. Under the same laws the union has been facing mounting claims for damages, fines, and legal costs estimated at some £2.3 million (US\$4 million). The union's assets totaled £2.8 million.

Meanwhile Sealink, by threatening to fire its striking work force, had forced some Sealink workers to consider a return to work. This is the background to the union leadership's decision.

This decision came under strong attack at the union's biennial conference now in session. The climax of a three-hour emergency debate was a challenge to the leadership's strategy by sacked P&O steward Sue Haynes, who also spoke on behalf of the Dover women's support group.

She explained how mounting solidarity had posed a real possibility of victory. "We had it there — victory — and it was bloody well snatched away from us," she declared.

In the period leading up to the decision to end solidarity actions, seafarers had

largely immobilized ferry operations up and down the country. Dockers and others were beginning to organize solidarity, and support was rapidly growing in the broader labor movement — expressed in the large size of picket lines at the Dover port. These had prevented P&O from restarting effective ferry operations with scab crews.

In addition truck drivers had mounted an effective blockade in Dover, and at Calais, France, and Ostend, Belgium, demanding that P&O reopen negotiations with the union. Seafarers in Calais and Ostend have put out a call for a one-day solidarity strike.

Picketing is continuing at Dover. And a national demonstration there called for May 21 is still building. Moreover, the union's case against job-cutting and speedup by P&O continues to enjoy broad support. It was a P&O ship that sank last year, with the loss of 200 lives due to the disregard of safety measures by management. Safety violations of this type by P&O ships continue to get reported.

However Sealink's management shares the same objective as P&O. Both are involved in frenzied cost-cutting, spurred by the decision to build a cross-channel tunnel. The only difference is that Sealink cannot easily afford a major battle with the union and is spacing its attacks out over several years.

Ferries account for only 5 percent of the profit of the P&O conglomerate, which encompasses construction and services, as well as deep-sea fishing. Sealink accounts for nearly 60 percent of the profit of its parent company, Sea Containers. Tying seafarers to the fortunes of Sealink is clearly a recipe for disaster.